



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)**

**Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly**

**SECOND MEETING - FIFTH SESSION - SECOND ASSEMBLY**

**Monday, 28th 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 are the Speakers of East African Community national Parliaments and other African regional parliaments and the South Sudan Legislative Assembly. They are the Speaker of the Burundi national Assembly, Speaker of the Burundi Senate, Speaker of the Kenyan National Assembly, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, President of the Pan African Parliament, Chairperson of the SADAC parliamentary forum, Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Vice President representing the speaker of ECOWAS parliament and deputy Speaker of the south Sudanese National Assembly.

I have, in accordance with the provisions of article 54 of the treaty, invited to address the Assembly. I would now like to address the following proclamation to welcome the presidents in the assembly and the speakers of the EAC national Parliaments and the African national parliaments and legislative assembly.

*“Whereas clause 1 of article 54 of the treaty provides that the speaker of the assembly can invite any person to attend the assembly, notwithstanding that he or she is not a member of the assembly in his or her opinion, the business of the assembly- (power interruption) – with the business now before the assembly.*

*Now therefore, it is with great pleasure and honour on your behalf hon. Members to welcome them to this assembly.”*

Karibuni sana.

## **ADDRESS BY ONE OF THE SPEAKERS OF THE EAC NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS AND SOUTH SUDAN PARLIAMENT**

Welcome Remarks by the Speaker of EALA

**The Speaker:** Your excellences, Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, President of the Burundi Senate, President of the Pan African Parliament, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Speaker of Rwanda Parliament, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Speaker of the Zimbabwe Parliament and the Chairperson of the SADAC national forum, Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, First Deputy Speaker of the South Sudanese Legislative Assembly, Vice President of the Rwanda Senate and hon members of both chambers of Burundi, the Chairperson Council of Ministers, Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members of partner states of EALA, the Secretary-General, your excellences ambassadors and high commissioners, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to sincerely welcome you to the parliamentary seminar common called the Nanyuki series. Historically, Nanyuki refers to the time and venue under the force of the great Kenya where the seminar was held in June 2004.

This morning, as you have noticed from the procedures, the procession and the organisation, this is special form of sitting of the assembly and the climax of EALA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. EALA could not afford to have such an occasion, other than with the Speakers of National Parliaments and the regional parliaments on behalf of EALA and on my own behalf, I thank you all. *(Applause)*

The Nanyuki series are historical not only because of the reasons why they were organised but also as to who is here. For the first time in its history, this meeting is being blessed and addressed by the Right Honourable Speakers of all the Partner States of the East African Community.

As we all know, it is not very easy to have such dignitaries in one meeting like this. So, I thank you Right Honourable Speakers for accepting my invitation to participate in this meeting. To us, it is a clear testimony of the high regard you have for EALA and your commitment for the EAC integration process.

I am further particularly pleased to welcome the Speakers or the representatives of our sister regional parliaments – the Pan African Parliament, the ECOWAS parliament, the SADAC parliamentary forum and IGHAD parliamentary forum. (*Applause*)

I also extend a special welcome to the delegation from the South Sudan Legislative Assembly with whom EALA has established strong ties. Apart from ECOWAS, all the rest are participating in this meeting for the first time as well. I thank you all for coming to join as we celebrate a decade of existence, but your presence here cannot be taken for granted. To us, it is a demonstration of close ties we have cultivated with you and we pledge our commitment to continue working with you closely as forge further for a united Africa.

I further extend a very warm welcome to members of our national parliaments, the backbone of our existence. You are our electorate and this will definitely be our great opportunity to consult you on the issues we would like to handle in EALA.

We thank you for the continued support you have rendered us which has definitely played a great role in whatever successes we have recorded. At the outset, I wish to applaud my brother, Rt Hon. Pierre Ntavyohanyuma Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly for the support in putting together this meeting and all other facilities extended to us. This is the second time that the Burundi National Assembly is playing host to this important meeting which is now institutionalised in the EALA calendar.

EALA views this joint collaboration as an act of good will and evidence of relations involving both assemblies under the integration process. I also appreciate the cordial support that we see from our long-time partner AWEPA, the association of European Parliamentarians with Africa.

It is a joyous moment as EALA celebrates a decade of its existence in this particular meeting and the rest of the activities being organised that do not only usher in the anniversary celebration, but it presents an opportune moment to us as we reflect on the challenges by setting the move for the next decade.

We have humble beginning but we are glad that 10 years later, we are now above them as a well-established institution whom many would like to emulate. When I say humble beginnings, the first staff establishment of EALA was three, the clerk, his secretary and a driver; all sharing one room, which occasionally the Speaker used as well.

Now, we have over 40 staff. Our budget was set for only 30 days in a year as it came from technocrats from the Partner States. We now have 80 days for plenaries alone and each committee is budgeted for three activities of one week each in the year. And the actual budget of EALA has increased from less than \$500,000 to \$11 million in 10 years.

Our role in the budgeting process at the EAC had been curtailed but we put our feet on our ground and armed with the provisions of the treaty, we rejected the budget price. Now all activities of the EAC must be approved by EALA.

The membership of the House has grown from 32 to 52 members. We had a temporary speaker, but now we have a full time speaker, resident in Arusha. In the beginning we operated in obscurity, but now we are known worldwide thanks to the establishment of our website and newsletter and finally we have created a legislature as we spearheaded the establishment of the forum of EAC speakers and the East African Parliamentary institute. *(Applause)*

As our capacity has tremendously increased, we have a task and the answer is yes. EALA is going to provide guidance in various areas as mandated by the treaty and those are to legislate, oversee and to represent.

Since its inauguration in 2001, the assembly has passed 38 pieces of legislation, 26 of which have been enacted by the current assembly in the last four and a half years of its existence. The assembly is determined that the laws that facilitate and drive the integration process.

The challenge we are faced with in this area is the few number of days that are provided for by the Council of Ministers. However, we do not sit back and wait. We exploited the provisions of article 59 of the treaty that allows members to introduce bills and as a matter of fact more than half of the legislation that were enacted were through private members bills. When it is a representative law, we believe it serves the institutions of the East African Community and the people of East Africa.

EALA as a legislature is a voice for the concern of the citizens of East Africa as a decision making body. Similarly, they should be the voice of the citizens of East Africa to let them know about the commitments and policies of governments to the EAC.

It is the duty of EALA to ensure that communication is two-way by letting the people also know what their governments are or are not doing. EALA has successfully performed this very important function in the integration process because we constantly consult the people of East Africa on bills introduced in the House and any other issues related to the implementation of the premises and activities within the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community.

We have further ensured that the people have access towards taking the assembly to all corners of East Africa and by holding sittings in all partner states. When in the partner states, we do public awareness, workshops, public rallies and seminars with various stakeholders. This is in fulfilment of one of the major principles of the community that it should be people centres.

The role of the national assemblies in the integration process should not be overemphasised. We have ensured constant interaction between EALA and the national assemblies of partner states. This interaction has been institutionalised through the forum of speakers. The inter-

parliamentary liaison committee and the Nanyuki series in this forum has been able to keep the national assemblies on board on what happened in Arusha.

Our understanding of the oversight role is to integrate our public policies and public funds mapped to pursue these policies to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the administration and implementation.

This is done through the respective committees of EALA. We have institutionalised the constant contact and dialogue between the committees and the East African Parliaments at the secretariat and the council of Ministers to ensure that these are articulated at the EAC through a development strategy. We have had to achieve this – (unstable recording)- and various projects and programmes of the community.

Our role of oversight is a critical role by providing direction in the EAC standing and allocation of resources. This mandate is under article 132(5) of the treaty that provides an important opportunity to the EALA to budget and allocate resources in line with the priorities of the community. Article 132 (4) of the treaty empowers the assembly to debate the report of audit commission that comes to the community and take such action as the assembly may deem necessary.

EALA plays this role very well and the various actions and recommendations that are made and continue to cause impact on the management of the EAC finances.

So, the fact that the EAC progresses 11 years later is evidence that the region is continuing and those of us that are charged with the duty of driving this should do so, although more work needs to be done. But the struggle for full integration continues despite a number of challenges we are bound to face.

I am confident of the fact that even in the face of challenges, the region goes on and moreover the partner states agree to disagree, it is the betterment of the community. But again here, we at parliament this is where the EAC parliaments come in. You must be the driving forces. We need to guide the EAC to allow that the political federation with in the shortest time possible. People want to know when we enjoy the community to invest, trade, study, elect the leaders and so on.

In this regard; the very need to enhance people's understanding on the meaning and benefits of the integration so that they can demand for fast achievement of the political federation.

The other area that should be addressed is that concerning the present and future of East Africans for the federation. But like they say, charity often begins at home. The matter starts with parliaments, we as representatives of other people should really understand the necessities and benefits of this important federation before selling the message to our constituency and I think that is why they are all here so that we can move a step forward.

I would like to re-affirm the commitment of EALA in strengthening the integration process which to us is an effective and efficient vehicle for economic development and prosperity of the people of East Africa. We pledge to continue giving priority to the community agenda.

Rt Hon. Speakers, before I call you to say something I would like to recognise a few delegations that are here so that you will know who is in the audience. I would like to start with the delegation from the Burundi National Assembly and the Senate, we have a delegation from the Kenya National Assembly, we have a delegation from the Rwanda deputies and Senate, we have a delegation from the Tanzanian National Assembly, we have a delegation from the Pan African Parliament, we have a delegation from the SADAC Parliamentary forum, we have a delegation from ECOWAS Parliament. We have a delegation from the South Sudanese legislative assembly. We have a delegation from IPU IGAD, we have a delegation from the Ugandan Parliament, they thought I had forgotten them but they have the biggest delegation.

We have ambassadors from the EAC partner states in Burundi, we had ministers but they are not here, I think they are on their way coming, and the secretary general; we have former members of EALA, hon. Kanyomozi is still running strong I can see. We have a delegation from the University of Dar-es-Salam, we have the president of FFE/FFA, we have a delegation from AWEPA, and we have a delegation from Burundi.

Hon. Members, it is now my pleasure to invite H.E, and we start with our own first, Rt Hon. Pierre Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly to make some welcome remarks. Welcome Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly (Mr. Pierre Ntavyohanyuma):** Your excellence Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, your excellences Rt Hon. Speakers of the National Assembly of Kenya, the Parliament of Uganda, the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies , the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Your excellency, Rt Hon. Speaker of the Senate of Burundi, your excellency, Rt Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Rwanda, Your excellency, Rt Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of South Sudan, Your excellency Rt Hon. Speakers and chairperson of the Pan African Parliament and the SADAC parliament, your excellency Rt Hon. Deputies, Hon. Members of the Bureaus of the Parliament of Burundi, Hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly and National Parliaments of the East African Community partner states, hon. Members of the council of ministers of the East African Community, your excellency the secretary general of the East African Community who is not yet here, your excellency ambassadors, distinguished guests, all protocol observed, ladies and gentlemen;

First of all, I would like to thank the Rt Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly for having honoured me by allowing me to speak during the opening ceremony of the sixth inter-parliamentary relations seminar, also known as Nanyuki six. At the Parliament of Burundi and generally in Burundi we are very happy to note with you and that November 2011 is not like other months. Indeed, really, so many unfortunate events have been organised in a month of the meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the East African legislative assembly.

The football tournament for a team from national parliaments of the partner states and a team from the East African Legislative Assembly, the Nanyuki seminar which starts today, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East African Legislative Assembly, the summit of the heads of state of the East African Community and the summit of the heads of state of countries of the basin of Lake Tanganyika. Thus, during three weeks Burundi has been a crossroads where not only the East African Community has chosen to meet but also a place where our community has chosen to invite our friends representing many African countries and the organisations to take part in these great events.

So, you understand the joy that is inspiring us as Burundians, also as East Africans when we are welcoming so many events, so many friends and so many personalities to Burundi or partner states of the East African Community. We are very happy to see you here. Welcome and have an excellent stay in Burundi.

I assure you that everything will be done to make your stay pleasant and this seminar successful. Your excellences, on behalf of members of parliament, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the parliament of Burundi is pleased to host this seminar organised by the East African Legislative Assembly. It is the second of its kind which is organised in this place. The first one which was the fifth of the Nanyuki series took place in January 2010.

I avail myself when this opportunity to thank all organisers of this seminar, in particular I think to the East African Legislative Assembly, the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) and the government of Burundi through its ministry to the office of the president in charge of the East African Community Affairs.

I also thank members of delegations from parliaments of Burundi and the East African Legislative Assembly for gracing this seminar with their presence. In this, to Pan African Parliament, the parliamentary forum of the Southern African Development Community, (SADC) , the Parliamentary forum of the community of West African States (ECOWAS), the National Assembly of the Southern Sudan, the youngest African state and whose independence we salute, the Parliament of Uganda, the National Assembly of Kenya, the Rwanda chamber of Deputies.

The sixth seminar series that begins today is an opportunity for our national parliaments and the EALA to address in-depth issues related to the full stages of the EAC integration. The first two stages which are the customs union and the common market have already been achieved. What remains is the personalization of the common market which was among the topics discussed during the last seminar of the Nanyuki series held in Burundi in January 2010 and the political federation.

Concerning the monetary union, technical work and negotiations related to it are on a verse delay – I take myself this opportunity to thank, congratulate and encourage technical experts who are working on it to move forward.

Regarding the political federation, it is on the agenda of this seminar whose main topic is the role of legislature in achieving a political federation. Once again I thank the EALA for having

put on the agenda of the seminar this topic which in our humble opinion causes the most rising fears and challenges. These fears and challenges were included in the conclusion and the recommendations of the symposium of the tenth anniversary of the EALA held in Arusha from the 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2011 and in which I was honoured to be invited.

These concerns are re-enforced by the current economic crisis in the world which in particular is now shaking the European union, which is one of the models of a successful integration.

Your Excellencies, hon. Members of parliament, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; while the current environment does not lead necessarily to optimism, we must not forget that our peoples expect us despite of the challenges to be able to meet the challenges and map out the way to the future.

Holding this seminar on the role of the legislature in achieving a political federation is a timely event because it is a period of time during which we will take or break, make assessments and define perspectives for the future. Since our Community is one and only half way of its establishment and because it has already achieved a customs union and a common market as parliaments our role is draft good laws and ensure that these laws are properly enforced.

From this purpose laws governing the political federation of the partner states of the EAC should dispel the fear and concerns about the different challenges to meet. Those laws should develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, promotion of peace, security and stability within the borders of partner states of all the Community and guarantee the right to comprehensive and sustainable development. That is why today we need to exchange our points of view on political federation.

Your Excellencies, hon. Members of parliament, once again I would like to emphasise the importance of this seminar for parliamentarians and the peoples of the EAC. Topics to be developed are related to the accelerated development of our countries as outlined in strategies defined in the treaty. At the parliament of Burundi, we hope that the proceedings of this seminar will be characterized by honesty, openness and a long term vision. Therefore I would like to thank the various resource persons, speakers, academicians, chairpersons and the contributors for the quality of the knowledge they will share with us during the two days. I wish all of you did a great job.

Finally, I would like to close my remarks by thanking once again the EALA for organizing this meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi. I wish every success to the sixth seminar on the inter-parliamentary relations on Nanyuki series. Thank you for your kind attention. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, before I call hon. Kadaga, I was reserving the best for last. I would like to now recognize hon. Benard Makuza who is the vice president of the Rwanda Senate; if you could stand up for recognition. (*Applause*)



We also have the bureau of the Burundi Parliament; if they could also please stand up. And for the very best, it is the EALA members so that at least everybody could see you.

I now invite hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda to make her remarks.

**Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (Speaker, Parliament of Uganda):** Thank you very much Mr Speaker of EALA. Rt. Hon. Speaker of Burundi National Assembly; Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly; Rt hon. Speaker of the Rwanda National Assembly; Rt Hon. Speaker of the South Sudan Assembly; Rt hon. Speaker of the SADC Forum, Rt Hon. Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament; Rt hon. Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament; distinguished members of EALA, distinguished members of the national Assemblies of the EAC; I must express my pleasure in being here and participating for the first time in the Nanyuki series. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the Speaker of Burundi for accepting to host us here and the Speaker of EALA for giving me the opportunity to come.

Distinguished colleagues, the EAC community is celebrating ten years. We have gone mid way with the achievement of the customs union and the common market but we still have the responsibility to achieve the monetary union and the political federation. We want to thank EALA for the work so far done in achieving those parts of the treaty which we had set out to do in our objectives.

In any government, the legislature is an important arm alongside the judiciary and the Executive; it is therefore imperative to recognize that they have a key role in the process of the federation. We want therefore to look at the roles of the national assemblies and the regional assemblies and this calls for harmonization of the roles played by the national and regional assemblies.

I am delighted to inform the delegations here that the forum of Speaker of the EAC met in Uganda on the 7<sup>th</sup> October and reaffirmed the commitment to harmonise our rules of procedure in managing the issues of the community and we also agreed to set up the East African Parliamentary Institute which would enable the members of parliament both of East Africa and the national parliaments to improve on their knowledge and commitment to the community.

We would appeal to the members of both the regional and national parliaments to focus on the economic activities which dominate the world; we expect to address the issues of poverty; we expect them to address the issues of building capacity but more important, we expect them to handle the delicate issue of sharing of our sovereignty which is one of the things we have to address if we are to have political federation.

As it stands, when a legislation is passed by the Assembly and one or two of the heads of state do not accept, it brings a stalemate. Members of Parliament and the EALA need to address the issue of sovereignty together with our heads of state.

Members of parliament have an opportunity to influence their respective countries' policies on matters dealing with the Community, with the United nations and other international for a;

they must keep themselves informed of the progress and outcomes of negotiations; they will be the ones to decide on ratification of the constitutions and other treaties involving the integration and they will have to contribute to the subsequent implementation process of the integration.

They are also expected to speak to their constituents and mobilize them in support of the integration and to carry out grass root campaigns in order to achieve this. So it is a tall order for the members of parliament but they can also play a significant role in stressing democracy and stability which are critical for the integration process.

They can also play a role in conflict resolution, election monitoring. Legislation for democracy amongst other things and I want to thank the EALA parliament which has done a lot by way of Private Members bills which have been coming to the House on areas that they think are of concern.

But we expect the parliamentarians to be very focused and handle the issues of good political, economic and cooperate governance for the good of our people.

We still have a problem in that the regional assembly does not have proper oversight powers over their home governments but these are other areas that we could also discuss with a view to improve in their performance.

I would like to propose the following that in order for parliaments to do this, they should have a clear parliamentary involvement; they should be sufficiently informed in advance of government policies and negotiating positions together with accurate information about the policies and their backgrounds.

I do recall in the Eighth Parliament in Uganda, we were very frustrated by the economic partnership agreements because the national parliaments had not had an opportunity to be part of the negotiating process and yet the process was moving exceedingly fast. Advance information is very important.

It is also necessary that the speakers facilitate the necessary resources to address the issues; we should facilitate with sufficient expertise among the parliamentarians so that they are able to do their work. We should afford the members of parliament an opportunity to put questions to ministers on issues of the Community so that we can stress our political views to the government.

Hon. Colleagues, following our discussions in Kampala, I would just want to report on what I have done regarding Article 49 of the Treaty which requires the regional assembly that is the EALA to liaise with the national assemblies of the partner states and what I have done with regard to Article 65 of the treaty which defines relations between EALA and the national assemblies.

Colleagues, I have taken the following steps in the Uganda Parliament: I have proposed to the Rules Committee to establish a separate committee of the EAC so that facilitates –(Applause)

– specialized and focused interaction, it facilitates public hearings and ensures that the issues of the Community remain in the public domain.

I have also proposed to the Rules Committee that the minister for EAC must be required to address Parliament at least once a year on issues of the Community. (Applause). And I am looking forward to the support of my members when the rules committee reports in December for this position.

I am now proposing that when the EALA meets in our capitals, let us move out of the parliament building where we sit and we go to the population, let us go and play football and netball and basketball with the citizens in the country so that they know that EALA is in town.

I have also instructed in our Parliament a special section in library to be set aside for the deliberations of the Pan-African Parliament as well as the deliberations of the EAC so that they are easily accessible and available for use by the members of parliament. In this way I expect that the members will be more knowledgeable and focused in their arrangements.

I would want to see more capacity building for the parliamentarians and their staff; we would like to see better funding for the parliaments and their activities; we should promote the separation of powers and independence of parliament; we should strengthen and re-straighten the oversight powers of parliament and also enhance transparency of the electoral process.

I want to conclude by saying that on behalf of the Uganda Parliament; I renew my commitment to ideals of the EAC and call for your support in enabling the implementation of the treaty. Thank you very much. (Applause)

**The Speaker:** Thank you. I now call hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda to give her statement.

**The Speaker of Rwanda National Assembly (Hon. Rose Mukantabana):** Rt. Hon. Speaker of EALA, R thon Speakers of regional parliaments that is SADC and Pan-African Parliament; R thon. Speakers of national parliaments of Burundi, Kenya and Uganda; Rt hon President of Senate of Burundi; hon. Parliamentarians of EALA and national parliaments; distinguished participants; ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, it is my pleasure to extend to all of you here present greetings from Rwandan people and particularly Rwandan parliamentarians we represent here. I would also like to express my gratitude to the speaker of EALA for inviting me and Rwandan parliamentarians to this auspicious session and to the Nanyuki Sixth Seminar for us to exchange views on the role of the legislature in achieving a political federation within the EAC.

Equally, I thank the Speaker of the Burundi national parliament and the Burundian people for the warm welcome and hospitality; we have been honoured since we arrived here in the capital of Bujumbura.

This session and the Nanyuki Sixth seminar are organized while celebrating the tenth anniversary of EALA, the legislative wing of the EAC. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Assembly for a decade of service towards achieving the objectives of the Community. We really appreciate the interactive cooperation that characterizes our relations with EALA and the wise leadership of Speaker Abdirahin. At this important moment I convey to him sincere thanks on behalf of Rwandan Parliamentarians and in my own capacity. Thank you, hon. Speaker.

In the past ten years, a lot has been done but there is still a long way to go through during the next decade as the political integration needs a strong legal and institutional framework. It requires also commitment and involvement of all stakeholders within the Community including legislators.

Those who were in the EALA tenth anniversary symposium in Arusha Tanzania last July do remember we discussed deeply this topic of political; federation and we came up with some recommendations. Allow me to recall the following recommendations made during this symposium in July because they are still alive for me.

One, its overcoming fears and perceptions regarding political federation; second it was strengthening EAC institutions; third, involving the people in the regional integration; fourth, increasing the role of national parliaments and EALA and then enhancing the levels of implementation of such commitments. I think we still need to engage debate on the same [particularly to reflect on the best ways of the implementation as well as to address the remaining questions on how and when the political federation will be achieved. This was my homework and indeed to everyone in the July seminar in Arusha. I think you reflected on this and you gave some kind of answers on these questions.

To achieve this ultimate phase of political integration, it is indeed important to strengthen the already existing institutions and build their capacity to deliver on the specific missions, it is also a must to ensure full enforcement of the laws passed by EALA as a legislative branch of the Community and protocols signed; I recall customs union, and the common market protocols and in the next future, the protocol on the monetary union which is now under discussion.

People, goods and services have to move freely within the Community without any barriers. In this context, the role of national parliaments and EALA is very critical. While moving step by step, in the process of political integration, community protocols need to be domesticated in each member state and we need harmonization of legislations as a necessity to speed up the process.

Relations between EALA and national assemblies should be enhanced through smooth communication and sharing relevant information. All stakeholders and citizens have to be proactive and involved in the whole process. Then public awareness and sensitization on the issues of the community should be a concern of all institutions at regional and national levels.

Hon. Speakers and parliamentarians;

It is imperative that we break all potential barriers so that you could ensure that the form of a political integration which will be adopted shall be a success for all of us.

Let us also start feeling and behaving ourselves as East African citizens-(*Applause*)-besides our national interests. Such an attitude and behaviour will help to speed up the whole process of the political integration.

In conclusion, hon. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my congratulations to EALA for the good job so far done and I wish the Speaker and all EALA Members, as well as the technical and support staff a happy anniversary. I also wish you a successful debate during this Nanyuki VI Series seminar. Thank you for the invitation. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, I failed to mention that hon. Kadaga is currently the chairperson of the Speakers Forum - (*Applause*)-and it is being handed over to hon. Rose Mukantabana in our next meeting. So, she will be the incoming Chair. It seems hon. Kadaga has this time forgotten because she usually reminds us in every international forum that I have seen her she says, “You know there are five parliaments in East Africa and three of the speakers are women.” (*Laughter*) I would also like to remind hon. Kadaga from now; don’t forget me; there are six parliaments in East Africa. (*Laughter*)

Before I call the next speaker, I would like to recognise hon. Kificho who is the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives. (*Applause*) *Karibu sana, Mwishemewa* Speaker. He was meant to be with us earlier this morning or yesterday but because of flight connections, he had to spend the night in the beautiful city of Nairobi. So, *Mwishemewa karibu sana*. I would also like to recognise his delegation from Zanzibar if there are hon. Members from the Zanzibar House of Representatives - (*Applause*) - *karibuni sana*. I saw hon. Bilal and hon. Mwinyi getting tempted to stand up. You are Members of EALA and not from Zanzibar. (*Laughter*) I would like to call hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, *karibu sana, Mwishemewa* Speaker.

**Mr Kenneth Marende (Kenya):** The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt hon. Abdirahim Abdi, the Rt hon. Deputy Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament, Rt hon. Speakers of the national assemblies of Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zanzibar, Southern Sudan and the Speaker of the Houses of Representatives of Zanzibar and Rwanda, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, hon. Members of Parliament of EALA and Members of Parliament from Partner States including a strong delegation from the Parliament of Kenya, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure, privilege and honour to address you during this auspicious occasion marking 10 years of existence of the East African Community at this Assembly of hon. Speakers, hon. Members of EALA and Partner States.

Allow me from the outset to express my gratitude to you all, first, for the choice of Burundi, and second for travelling to this very fascinating country to share views on how to strengthen and deepen our federation. (*Applause*) I further wish to thank the people of the Republic of Burundi for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival and for hosting the Nanyuki VI Series. I feel completely at home and recognise this brotherly if not sisterly spirit-(*Applause*) - as the one we need in the Community as we move together severally and jointly to impact the rest of the world.

Hon. Members of Parliament, in Kenya we have a proverb, which I find relevant to cite this morning thus: “*He whose seeds have not germinated does not put down the seed container.*” This translates to laying strong foundations for whatever endeavour one seeks to undertake.

From 30th November, 2001 to 30th November, 2011 there have been outstanding accomplishments attributable to EALA, which we all must acknowledge and appreciate. All of you have played your part as Mwalimu Nyerere indeed intended us to do; play your part and it can be done. (*Applause*)

Working in collaboration with other organs of the East African Community in attaining this among which are enhancement of EALA's representative role; passing of a reasonably array of statutes that have heightened our integration and commonality as we were referred to by my brother, Abdi brought out our identity as East Africans and further extended the region by embracing new members. EALA obviously under an able leadership has explored robust ways of increasing its oversight role.

On my way here, I took time to go through the East African Legislative Assembly strategic plan 2010-2012, which sets the benchmarks that charts the roadmap for the Assembly towards achieving its desired goals. I was impressed by the will and vision outlined therein. (*Applause*) This actively demonstrates the proper grounding our founding fathers laid for us. It certainly poses a challenge to us that we must constantly ourselves of the reasons for integration to ensure that we actualise it and draw benefits there from for the benefit of all East Africans and posterity.

I have been assured this morning that discussions towards ten last two pillars of integration, namely: a political federation and monetary union are on course. I wish to focus on two main issues in my discourse today. The first is the mode of election of Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. As the Treaty stands now, Article 50 provides for Members of EALA to be elected by the national assemblies of their respective Partner States. The national assembly of each Partner State is required to elect nine Members of the Assembly representing as much as possible the various political parties in that national assembly and the different shades of opinion, gender and other special interest groups in that Partner State.

Proposals have, however, been made to the Summit of Heads of State to amend the Treaty so as to provide for the direct election of EALA Members by citizens of Partner States. (*Applause*) Ladies and Gentlemen, this poses difficult questions as to the type of domestic elections the Partner States will have to conduct inter alia. Will it be an equivalent of a general election where the whole country has to be massed in a campaign mood purposely to elect EALA Members? How will the issue of costs be rationalised to avoid Partner States engaging in an expensive exercise by way of a general election separate and away from that of the standard national general elections? What constituencies will form the basis of the election of EALA Members in a particular Partner State? Will the whole Partner State be a single constituency for purpose of the elections or will it be divided into several regional constituencies equivalent to the number of seats a Partner State is allocated by the Treaty? Those questions are obviously not very easy to answer.

What is the best practice in other regional assemblies outside EALA? Other than the European Union, I am authoritatively aware that all others as exist up to where we are modelled on EALA; that makes it even more difficult. I have already volunteered my considered opinion on the puzzle to the effect that each Partner State be geographically zoned into constituencies or electoral units equivalent to the number of Members each state will subscribe. Elections be then held after general elections in each state and parliamentary political parties directly elected by their membership, elect their Members of EALA according to their respective strength arrived at from the number of votes garnered at the general election immediately preceding. A proviso that outgoing Members continue serving

as Members until new Members are sworn in will safeguard a smooth transition. Please, think about that proposal. *(Applause)*

Hon. Members, the second important issue which needs to be adequately rationalised is that of the relationship between EALA and the national assemblies of the respective Partner States, which my sister, Rebecca very ably referred to in her remarks this morning. Article 65 of the Treaty 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 the national assemblies in the respective states. The Treaty, therefore, envisages that matters relating to the Community should form an integral component of the day-to-day business of the Partner national assemblies. The practical realisation of this vision has, however, been uneasy at best.

The principal responsibility to give effect to Article 65 is primarily vested in the Clerk of EALA who is required to transmit to clerks of the respective national assemblies copies of records of all relevant debates, meetings of the Assembly and copies of Bills introduced into the Assembly and Acts of the Community to be laid before the national assemblies. The clerks of the national assemblies are subsequently obligated to transmit to the Community the results of the domestic debates on those issues.

Hon. Members, there is need to develop standards and guidelines that will ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the spirit of public participation envisaged by Article 65. Perhaps this may be done through creation of a special committee of the House whose mandate would be to specifically monitor implementation of the said Article. *(Applause)* I am glad that my sister shares the same political philosophy with me.

I am in a nutshell saying that a lot more can be done to ensure that EALA's impact is felt in Partner States. The prevailing situation where Partner States are tending to resort to MoUs and or protocols on specific issues where binding legislation by EALA will do is undesirable and ought to be discouraged if not discontinued at the earliest opportunity. *(Applause)*

The Council of Ministers needs to roll up its sleeves and generate Bills for the Assembly to process. *(Applause)*

Finally, hon. Members, I urge all of us to demonstrate that integration is a political necessity because today's security challenges transcend national borders as witnessed by events in Somalia and the impact of piracy in the Indian Ocean and terrorism in the region, markedly so on Kenya, not forgetting the unwarranted and most despicable attack in Uganda not so long ago.

When faced with challenges such as these, the benefits of a regional security network far out way those of a single country's capacity. We have the competitive edge to work together and destabilise our enemies at the same time impress our friends.

As a Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, I wish to thank all Partner States for the exceptional solidarity demonstrated by all standing with us as we deployed our troops in Somalia in self defence. *(Applause)* Indeed allow me to underscore the words of the editorial team of the *East African Newspaper* running over the period 21st -27th November, 2011: "In the fullness of time: Somali could enable regional integration that will surprise us." As I leave you with these issues to ponder, I take this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment and that of the people of Kenya to the vision of the East African Community and to avail myself as

Speaker of the national Assembly of Kenya to your service. As Samora Machel, the late President of Mozambique would tell us; *Aluta Continua- (Applause)*—the race is not over. Looking at comparable federations like the EU, I have no doubt the future is bright. Our generation is called upon to make it happen. God bless you. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Speaker. Hon. Members, the Speaker did not say that you will be the transitional period unless the rules are changed. (Laughter) You still have to go for elections next year. Hon. Members, now that we are done with our own, I would like to invite our guests who have come from afar to come and say a few words. I would like to start with hon. Daniel Owit Okot, the First Deputy Speaker of the South Sudanese Parliament, karibu. *(Applause)*

**The First Deputy Speaker of South Sudan Parliament (Mr Daniel Okot):** Rt hon. Abdirahim Abdi, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Rt hon. Speaker of the Burundi Parliament, all Rt hon. Speakers of the parliaments of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, ECOWAS, South African Development Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament and all other African parliaments. I have this great honour to make a few remarks. On behalf of our Rt hon. Speaker, Gen Ali Iga, I and my delegation feel whole heartedly privileged and honoured to attend this august assembly of the Nanyuki VI Series on the invitation of Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Abdirahim Abdi. Due to other important matters, our Speaker requested us to honour his invitation and hence our presence at this important gathering which could be correctly classified as a sub-continental assembly. *(Applause)*

As a new nation, we are profoundly delighted to be part of this historic occasion. Hon. Speaker and hon. Members, allow me at this juncture to convey to you all compliments from our President, Gen. Salvar Kiir, his entire government and the people of the Republic of new South Sudan. *(Applause)* our hard won independence and sovereignty is not only heroic committed on determination and patriotism but it is a reality that has placed our new nation on the map of the African continent. Therefore, it is indeed with great joy, solidarity and partnership that we are today attending this inter-parliamentary relations seminar to commemorate with you the achievements of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Speaker, it is my firm belief that we have gathered here to share our continental and regional aspirations; vision and mission with an objective to consolidate governance for the benefit of our poverty ridden populace on the continent. Our role as legislators and in other capacities in other branches of government including the civil society focus on empowerment of our respective citizens through decentralisation system of governance that aims at devolution of power from the national level to the lower levels of governance.

The life span of the Republic of South Sudan so far is 143 days and can hardly talk of a well established decentralisation system worth of sharing with this august gathering. Nevertheless, in our new republic, we do advocate for the principle that as a nation we must know where we are coming from, a struggle that has been on since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to where we are now after attaining our independence with a free and secure election. Now where we are going is the building of a real nation and we shall not reverse. *(Applause)*

Hon. Members, allow me to briefly take you through our emancipation journey, which indeed commenced during the slavery at the time of the Angola-Egyptian condominium. The most memorable thing I can mention here is 1948 when there was a conference held in Juba in which federation was demanded as the first thing and not decentralisation or separation. This



became the cause of Anyanya I Revolt in 1955 and you know very well what has happened with the Addis Ababa Agreement signed by Haile Selassie and later on violated by the system of Khartoum because they were still controlling the legislature.

That type of decentralisation system gave little power of sharing to the various governance regions of the Sudan. Political alienation and economic disparity issues culminated on the onset and thus the formation of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army and Movement. We were all involved because at first with Anyanya I, we were referring to it as that of southerners alone. So, with that new formation, we were to take the war to the North to involve each one because the majority of Sudanese are Black people and at such we agreed on the tactics that we should fight for the unity of the Sudan on the new basis; new approach and new culture. This is how the whole thing succeeded because war was being tied on our children while we were being tied in the South. So, we attained the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and I know the role you, East African countries and IGAD have played in this.

Rt hon. Speaker, political federation as a form of decentralisation is a case word is the empowerment at all levels of governance by our citizens through representatives, the civil service and the civil society organisations. The Transitional Constitution, 2011 of the Republic of Southern Sudan in its Article 36(1) states that: *“All levels of governance shall promote democratic principles and political pluralism and shall be guided by the principle of decentralisation and devolution of power to the people through the appropriate levels of government where they can best manage their affairs.”* Mr Speaker, in the above constitutional provision, we as a national legislative assembly have taken concrete action to adhere to decentralised system of governance. Also to maintain a few of these are:

(a) The Republic of South Sudan has a bicameral legislature (Article 54) with a Council of State being a specialized legislative House for interstate legislation processes;

(b) The Transitional Constitution of Southern Sudan addresses key areas of Bill of Rights which inter alia underscore the participation of the citizens' rights to benefit from the economic social and cultural activities. The Bill of Rights also gives them protection rights.

(c) The Republic of South Sudan has turned into a decentralised state.

(d) Enactment of the Local Governments Act which has clearly defined the mandate of local government institutions.

(e) The national government also established physical and financial allocation and monetary commission so as to ensure transparency, fairness and regard to the allocation of funds collected at the level of national development to the state and local governments.

(f) The local government board and the national government should liaise with each other to see that their policies to ensure uniformity.

(g) The Constituency Development Fund – something that we have borrowed from you- is being considered in our national budget to devolve physical decentralisation to the lower government.

(h) Governors and commissioners are other avenues through which we can share aspirations and analyse the performance of the decentralised system of governance.

The legislation process under our new political dispensation is geared towards induction of fundamental freedom, combat corruption, delivery of social services and combating poverty through economic growth.

In the decentralised system of government, our legislation process targets improvement in gender mainstreaming and children welfare, as well as attainment of human rights and addressing the humanitarian needs of our people classified as internally displaced persons (IDPs) who return to their areas as with time peace has been achieved.

Rt hon. Speaker and hon. Members, the Republic of South Sudan as a young republic sometimes called a “small son;” “small baby” or “small nation” would like to conclude this remark with an appeal for solidarity and support in the following areas:

- (a) Strengthening of the capacity of the national legislative assembly in its parliamentary role.
- (b) Exchange of visits to participate and share experiences with Partner State assemblies or parliaments -Pan African, ECOWAS et cetera.
- (c) Expedite the admission of the Republic of Southern Sudan to the East African Community as well as to the East African Legislative Assembly. (*Applause*)
- (d) Support the African Union/ United Nations Economic Commission to Africa initiative for the search of economic rehabilitation and development of the Republic of Southern Sudan after 38 years of war.
- (e) Our country is still badly off even if we drag on with this CCF; we struggle with loans, we need more and more to address the situation in our state.
- (f) Crime control especially currency counterfeiting, narcotic drugs trafficking and any other illicit practices now invading our young republic through criminals from some of our friendly countries. I think you know these countries; Somalia is very close.
- (g) Cooperate with our law enforcement agencies through training, crime investigation and comprehensive apprehension of criminals.
- (h) Protection of independence and sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan that has vowed never to return into war especially with the neighbouring state of the Republic of Sudan. They are trying to push us into war and we have seen how bad war is for the last 38 years. We are not going into war otherwise our economy is going to get spoilt. (*Applause*)

In this regard, we would like to have the concerted efforts of the African Union’s high implementation panel and their Excellencies, Thabo Mbeki and Pierre Buyoya the President of the Republic of South Africa and the President of the Republic of Burundi respectively.

Finally, though nor least, we most highly appreciate this invitation to this seminar and warmly congratulate the countries and the people constituting the East African Community for your commitment towards a principled and political cooperation, which is commendable. (*Applause*) The people and the Government of the “young” Republic of South Sudan share these visions with you and we shall commit and dedicate ourselves to transcend comprehensive political strategies of the region for the realisation of sustainable development, prosperity for the sub- region of our continent.

Southern Sudan is a very fertile land full of water, with a few people and what we only need from you is technology. Africa is no longer a dark continent; Africa has woken up. I thank you for your attention. God bless the East African Community; God bless this Parliament. Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, from your applause, the Deputy Speaker might go and report that they have been accepted in the East African Community. (*Applause*) But, hon. Speaker, I would like to thank you so much for coming here in solidarity with us. As EALA we have had a very good relationship with the Parliament and Government of South Sudan. So, we are happy that you are here; *karibu sana*. I would now like to call the Deputy Speaker of ECOWAS, hon. Ibra Diouf.

**The Deputy Speaker of ECOWAS (Mr Ibra Diouf): FRENCH.....**

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Speaker for those words from ECOWAS. Hon. Members, you know that under the rules you know that the Speaker of the Assembly can amend the Order Paper as he or she feels appropriate. So, I would like to amend the Order Paper and call on hon. Kificho, the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives to say a few words. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (Mr Pandu Kificho):** Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker of EALA to allow me say a few words in this august seminar. I know it was not in the programme to get in the statement of the Speaker of Zanzibar but after humbly requesting you, you gave me this chance to say a few words. Thank you very much for that. (*Applause*)

The Rt hon. Speaker of EALA, my colleagues, speakers from different national legislatures of Partner States, hon. Ministers present- (*Interjection*) - I am sorry, I have prepared my speech in English. (*Laughter*) I know that Swahili is very well understood and recognised in this very special seminar but could you allow me go on speaking in English because I am very well prepared for that, thank you - hon. Members of Parliament from different Partner States, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the House of Representatives of Zanzibar, I wish first of all to sincerely register our profound thanks and appreciation to the Speaker and the entire East African Legislative Assembly for inviting me and my delegation to this important seminar.

We feel very much privileged and honoured to be with you and other colleagues from the East African Partner States. We hope that our discussion and deliberations in this seminar will invigorate the existing spirit and progress towards East African integration. I also take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt thanks and a lot of gratitude to the people and Government of Burundi for the warm reception they have given us. (*Applause*) We request them to accept our thanks and in Kiswahili, which if you like, I should say, *asanteni sana*. (*Applause*)

I am quite sure that all of us are aware of the fact integration towards a political federation is not an event but a process which involves a lot of steps and mutual understanding among the Partner States. The ultimate aim as stipulated in the East African Treaty is to have accelerated, harmonious and balanced development strategies to enhance development activities the benefit of which shall be equitably shared. In this regard, therefore, I do not hesitate to say that a successful political federation will only be achieved if the integration process is democratic and anchored on the principle of equality among Partner States.

The democratic process will ensure empowerment of the citizens and legitimacy of the sustainable integration while equality among Partner States may necessitate distribution of the cost benefits in the short and long run.

The conventional theory of marginal integration indicates that the integration process is a chronology that starts with economics and leads to politics. In other words, economic integration comes first before political integration. In a way that was the view shared by the Partner States as outlined in the East African Community Treaty.

According to the Treaty, the Partner States are trying to establish among themselves a Customs Union, a Common Market, a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation. Those stages start with economic integration and later on political integration. Therefore, in any discussion of having a political federation, we have to ask ourselves how far and to what extent have we been successful in the first stage of customs union and the second stage of common market. What have been our major challenges; have we been successful in maintaining unity in diversity among the five Partner States? By evaluating the current status of our integration process, we will be in a better position to map out its prospects.

Political federation needs to be carefully designed in terms of functional jurisdiction. It has been emphasised quite often that a sustainable process for political federation must be entirely voluntary because the federation cannot only survive as long as the benefits to each Partner State are greater than the costs. Again each Partner State within the political federation has to have power and influence to determine acceptable mutual policies or rules. Furthermore, each Partner State must act according to the wishes of their people because it is the people who are the source of political authority.

In the process of strengthening the political integration, I would like to underscore the importance and the necessity of taking into account historical and sociological peculiarities of each Partner State. For instance, I have in mind the situation in Tanzania where we have the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, which has powers and decisions on all union matters and all non union matters for Tanzania mainland only; whereas there is a Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar with exclusive power and jurisdiction on all non-union matters for Zanzibar. This is a peculiar and unique situation, which is found in Tanzania that needs not to be ignored.

Finally Mr Speaker, we are quite optimistic to see that this seminar will be a great success. Once again we thank very much our hosts, the Government and the people of Burundi for the generosity and hospitality extended to all of us since we arrived in this beautiful country. We hope that every one of us will enjoy his or her stay in Burundi. I thank you so much, Mr Speaker and all the delegates. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Speaker. Hon. Members, I now call H.E Lovemore, Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum who is also the Speaker of Zimbabwe Parliament. *Karibu. (Applause)*

**The Speaker of Zimbabwe Parliament/ Chairperson of SADAC Parliamentary Forum (Mr Lovemore Moyo):** The Rt hon. Speaker of EALA, the Rt hon. Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, the Rt hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Rt hon. Speaker of the House of Deputies, Rwanda, the Rt hon. President of the Pan-African Parliament, the Deputy Speaker of ECOWAS, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of South Sudan, other presiding officers of the East African Community here present, hon. Members of EALA, invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. May I begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the East African Legislative Assembly, for extending an invitation to me in my capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum to come and make a statement at this historic event.

Indeed it is a privilege for me to join the East African Community in celebrating 10 years of the existence of the East African Legislative Assembly. The establishment of an East African regional parliament 10 years ago was certainly a landmark.

Hon. Speakers and members, on behalf of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and on my own behalf, I would like to place on record our deepest appreciation for the warm welcome extended to us by the Government and the people of Burundi since our arrival and for all the arrangements put in place by the Parliament of Burundi towards hosting of this inter-parliamentary seminar. *(Applause)*

I understand that the celebrations of EALA's tenth anniversary were launched in March this year with EALA Members engaging in the construction of houses in Rwanda as a means of both outreach and corporate responsibility. The launch was followed by tree planting initiatives in Arusha, Tanzania in May.

It also provided a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas. Hon. Speakers, regional Parliaments are a world-wide phenomenon found on most continents and their establishment is a welcome development in Africa. They create a platform for regional dialogue that bring together experiences of various Parliaments and Parliamentarians in an attempt to promote integration, Parliamentary democracy, transparency and accountability.

Regional Parliaments also help to keep track of the domestication of the international and regional treaties, protocols and conventions that our heads of state and Government would have signed.

Let me add that the establishment of regional Parliaments has brought about interaction and exchange on best practices that aim at improving the quality of the administration of the national Parliaments. Also, they have brought Parliaments closer to East African Community other thus creating a common objective by speaking with one voice.

Regional Parliaments also give Parliamentarians and opportunity to debate, engage and agree on shared agenda that seeks to improve the livelihood of the people in their region. It is clear that the coming together of Parliamentarians will certainly go a long way in achieving a political federation in the region.

These regional groupings have tremendously improved the free movement of people within that regional economic community. Hon. Members, I would like to pay tribute to the heads of

state of the East African Community who established the East African Legislative Assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2001 – (*Applause*).

They saw the need and wisdom of having a regional Parliament with legislative authority as complimenting the work of the economic block of the East African Community. Indeed EALA is one of the two regional Parliaments in the world with legislative powers. The other one is the European Parliament.

From a distance, we see EALA have done an exceptional job in harmonising regionally agreed protocols and conventions and treaties with national legislations.

On the quest for a political federation, the foundation has been set by the East African Community. As they exist, the East African Court of Justice, the EALA and the Secretariat that is playing the role of the executive arm. Borrowing from the European Union, there is the European Parliament, the European Court and the European Commission which is the Executive Arm of the European Union. Perhaps there is need for the East African Community to move in the mould of the European unit by creating a commission.

Hon. Speakers and Members, while we applaud the existence of the EALA, we are extremely concerned about the slow pace of the establishments of regional Parliaments with legislative powers in others regional of Africa. It is my fervent hope that the authorities in the relevant regions will speed up the process of setting up of regional Parliaments to complete the cycle.

Coming to Southern Africa, the South African Development Community summit of heads of state and Government met in Malawi on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1997 and approved the establishment of the SADAC Parliamentary forum as an institution of SADAC. In accordance with article 9(2) of the SADAC Treaty, in approving the establishment of the SADAC Parliamentary forum, the summit further noted that the main objective of the forum was to constitute a consultative assembly, the ultimate goal being the establishment of a regional Parliamentary framework for dialogue on issues of regional interest and concern.

It is now 14 years since this resolution was made yet SADAC is yet to establish a regional Parliamentary framework in line with this decision. I do not wish to hide my disappointment over the slow pace in transforming the SADAC Parliamentary forum into a regional Parliament. Under the leadership of Speakers from SADAC national Parliaments together with SADAC Parliamentarians, we have over the years embarked on numerous concerted efforts to expedite the realisation of this objective. Our efforts have been comprehensive and sensitive to the apprehensions of various stakeholders in the region. We remain open to advice from our national Governments and other stakeholders and we shall continue to engage our Governments on this matter.

Hon. Speakers and Hon. Members of Parliament, the case for a SADAC regional Parliament should be viewed in the contest of regional integration agenda for SADAC which is meant to create sustained growth and development both on the political and the social economic fronts.

Accordingly, it is our considered view that the SADAC Parliament would add value to the integration process by promoting the culture of democratic processes, transparency, accountability, human rights, gender equality and good governance among member states. By providing a regional forum for dialogue and consultation, the SADAC regional Parliament will promote public participation in regional governance and encourage political, cultural and social contacts between SADAC citizens and their institutions.

As the SADAC Parliamentary forum, we continue to make efforts in achieving this noble objective of transforming the forum into a regional Parliament. To this end, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2011, a delegation from the SADAC Parliamentary forum undertook a study visit EALA led by the secretary general.

Indeed our visit to EALA was rewarding and widened our scope of knowledge on how regional Parliaments operate. In addition, we have debated the transformation of the SADAC Parliamentary forum into a regional Parliament in many of our plenary sessions. The latest being the 29<sup>th</sup> plenary assembly in Angola in June 2011 where we invited the honourable Speaker of EALA as a guest Speaker. We remain indebted to hon. Speaker for the wisdom he imparted to the SADAC Parliamentary forum as we drew lessons from the experiences of EALA on matters such as the framework for its establishment, relationships between the assembly and other organs of the community and the relationship with the national Parliaments.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge the cordial relationship between the SADAC Parliamentary forum and EALA which is essential to both institutions on the regional integration agenda. We hope to further strengthen this relationship.

Hon. Speakers, Members of Parliament, the SADAC Parliamentary forum has also undertaken lobbying missions to the heads of state and Government and other stakeholders in the SADAC region seeking their approval on the framework of the SADAC regional Parliament. Our lobbying missions have in the past received support from several heads of state and Government. Also, our national Parliaments have in the past introduced and adopted motions on this matter. What remains is to transform these positive indicators into reality.

Hon. Members, in conclusion, I believe that the establishment of regional Parliaments in Africa will go a long way in strengthening the Pan African Parliament which is the apex of the five regional Parliaments in Africa. The strength of the pan African Parliament depends on the existence of viable and vibrant regional Parliaments.

It is therefore in the interest of the Pan African Parliament to also advocate for the establishment of regional Parliaments with legislative powers as it also lobbies for its transformation into an legislative body.

Also, let us ensure that there is unity of purpose among regional Parliaments to enable the Pan African Parliament to transform into a body with full legislative authority. I would like to pay tribute to EALA on showing leadership on how to bringing together national Parliaments in a region can achieve unity, economic growth and political prosperity.

With these remarks, I wish EALA many more prosperous years to come. *Asante Sana, merci*– Thank you very much (*Applause*).

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Speaker. Hon. Members, I would like to say that the hon. Speaker was supposed to be in New York but he decided to council his trip and come here first; then he will continue from here. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

Hon. Members, we have gone from partner state national, to regional, now we are coming to continental. I would now like to invite His Excellency, Idris Ndere, President of the Pan African Parliament to come and give his remarks; *Karibu Sana Mheshimiwa*.

**H.E. Idris Ndere:** (*French*)

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Speaker. I now call on hon. Mike Sebalu to move a vote of thanks.

**Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. The Speaker of the Parliament of Burundi, the Speaker of Parliament of Kenya, the Speaker of Parliament of Rwanda, the Speaker and delegation of the republic, the Speaker of the House of representatives of Zanzibar, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, delegations from IGAD Parliamentary Forum, delegation from SADAC, the Speaker of ECOAS and the Speaker of the Pan African Parliament.

Mr Speaker Sir, today is a great day as I wish to acknowledge delegations from pattern states, other development partners and other distinguished invited guested that have graced this occasion as per your gracious invitation.

Madam Speaker, before us is a great line up of great Speakers of national and regional Parliaments who need to be thanked, commended and appreciated for the level of delivery they have given us this morning (*Applause*).

Rt. Hon. Speaker – Speakers, you know we used to one; your presence here is a clear testimony of your high level of commitment to the integration of Africa and the East African Community in particular (*Applause*).

We all appreciate hon. Speakers and hon. Speaker at this point allow me to apologise for having skipped this; I want to acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Speaker of South Sudan. I wanted to single you out separately because South Sudan is so dear, a bouncing baby of Africa and the world. So you deserve to be acknowledged in a special way (*Applause*).

Rt. Hon. Speaker, we do appreciate the need regional economic communities to serve as building blocks for the integration of Africa. This special sitting of EALA is a clear demonstration that it is possible and it can be achieved through Parliamentary diplomacy among others.

Mr Speaker and others, although EALA has been engaged in the process of widening and deepening integration for the last ten years, I want to state that it has never widened and deepened wide enough the way it has done today (*Applause*).

This is a rare opportunity to have real speakers speaking and you agree with me, they have spoken. (*Applause*) Rt Hon. Speakers, many of us claim to be speakers and I can say we are counterfeits in that respect because we go around claiming to be speakers and masquerading as speakers, yet we are not speakers. The speakers have spoken today.

Occasionally you get people calling upon speaker after speaker, that I would like to call upon a speaker to give their speech, but these are not speakers, the speakers are right in front of us and they have spoken today, Mr Speaker.



The speeches that have been delivered are difficult to highlight in terms of details and I would just look at the principles of how I can categorise them. The speech of the speaker of Burundi to me was humbling. Listening to him, you would get humbled, the way he was analysing the issues and getting us to appreciate the integration process. So, it was a very humbling experience.

The Speaker of Uganda was inspiring, given the line-up of interventions she has made, you really get inspired and you know that EALA has a future with that kind of commitment.

The speech of Rwanda was captivating. You would really feel captivated by those ideas. I was and I believe my colleagues were too captivated by your speech.

The speech from Kenya was philosophical, highly philosophical and it gave me deep thinking and analysing, so, it was well grounded in philosophy and we are going to take on those ideas that you expounded so well.

The speech from Southern Sudan was very exciting. You know, that, may you please expedite the process of admitting us into the East African Community, that was very exciting and we thank you for the speech.

The speech from ECOWAS was eliminating. You really gave your ideas very well, and I do not have to add anything to that.

The speech from Zanzibar was insightful and you went deep- it had strong messages behind it, and we captured that message.

The speech from SADC was very articulate and you elaborated the SADC story, the comparative analysis of SADC and EAC, and I can state, we can offer some capacity building in terms of upgrading SADC to a full legislative assembly. We have captured some good ground in that area.

The speech from PAP was highly informative and premised on Pan African ideals and principles. Listening to him, you would definitely appreciate why Africa has taken the cause it has taken.

So, these speeches have been really great speeches in my view and indeed the sum total of this is that they were topical, they were very relevant, they were eloquently delivered and they were well researched and illustrated and made the systematic objective of this special sitting. May I request my colleagues to give a round of applause. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, EALA is a parliament in form, substance and character, and we pray that all other regional parliaments take that form accordingly and we are available to offer any assistance in required.

EALA is ready and available to offer any kind of capacity building to other regional parliaments by sharing their experiences challenges as well as comparing notes in terms of how we have moved along the journey.

Rt Hon. Speaker of EALA you have really taken EALA to a level it has never been before and you have stood tall and high both in height and achievements in your duty as speaker of EALA. (Applause)

Rt Hon. Abdi, that name should come on special occasions, your role today is unenviable one, it is highly enviable in that you are not only presiding over an assembly of members of parliament, but more importantly, an assembly of great speakers. You are presiding – you usually preside over we the ordinary mortals, but today you are presiding over an assembly constituted by speakers from great parliaments and that is indeed an enviable task.

It is always good for anyone to aspire to inspire before you expire. Our distinguished speakers have done exactly that. You have inspired us before you can ever think of expiring.

Rt Hon. Speaker and all distinguished members of this audience, I would like to finally thank the government, the parliament and the people of Burundi for accepting more so, the parliament and the speaker, for accepting to be internally displaced in their own chambers, because they are guests of the speaker of EALA. So, having the humility of accepting to be internally displaced is not an ordinary thing in the circumstances.

Rt Speaker of EALA, we thank you very sincerely as members of EALA and all of us here for having accepted to play host to this historic and very important meeting and the sufficient hospitality and courtesy levels that you have extended to all the guests, more importantly the speakers from national parliaments, regional parliaments and the Pan African Parliament.

Rt Hon. Speakers, allow me to thank members of EALA for having been a very wonderful and receptive audience. It is not very common that you get this kind of audiences, of distinguished members listening attentively and digesting the issues that you are deliberating which are very important for the region, the continent and the globe as a whole.

Mr Speaker and all speakers, I would like to thank the office of the clerk and the staff of EALA. They have definitely had sleepless nights, burning midnight candles to ensure that they organise what is already a very successful special sitting and celebrations to mark 10 years of existence of EALA. They deserve a pat on the back. (Applause)

Rt Hon. Speakers, allow me to thank AWEPA for supporting EALA in this activity among other forms of support to the parliament. AWEPA needs to be thanked in that respect. Rt Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank the media for the kind of coverage and promotion they always undertake regarding EALA and its activities and this particular special sitting is no exception. So members of the media we really want to thank you and we want to state that we will always cooperate with you until we deliver the integration to the East African people.

Rt hon. Speakers, you have done us proud, we are indeed very proud of you and many of us in this room have a lot of hope in you to renew our mandate so that we keep interacting with

you, so that we keep offering you the audience as you give us the beautiful speeches and the wisdom. We are ready to learn and continue learning even in the next five years as we move into the next decade of EALA. So, that is something that we cannot leave uncommented about for obvious reasons.

Finally, Rt Hon. Speakers, long live the parliament of Burundi, long live the parliament of Kenya, long live the Parliament of Rwanda, long live the parliament of united Republic of Zanzibar, of Tanzania, long live the House of Representatives of Zanzibar, long live the parliament of South Sudan, it is no long Southern, it is South Sudan, long live the parliamentary forum of IGAD, long live the parliamentary forum of SADAC, long live the parliament of ECOWAS, and long live the Pan African Parliament and finally long live EALA. Long live in a special way, the parliament of Uganda, not that I come from there. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to move a vote of thanks. I want to thank the audience, all other distinguished members of the audience and regarding the republic of South Sudan, those issues will be tabled in the appropriate for and the speaker can always deal with them, but you have got very good partners in EAC. So, count on us.

With those not too few remarks, I want to finally say that it started well, it continued well, and I do not have any doubt to state that it is going to end well. Thank you very much Rt Hon. Speaker. *(Applause)*.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Sebalu. The president of Pan African Parliament was saying you know, the kind of people we have brought to EALA- because hon. Sebalu was a member of the Pan African Parliament before, so, he says he is also proud of you.

Hon. Members, I think we have come to the end of business today. Before I adjourn, I would like to make a few announcements. First and foremost, I would like to say you have your registration forms, if you could please fill them in. Two, there is a dinner this evening; I hope you all got your cards. It is going to be smart casual with no ties because we are going to really have a party. So, you should get ready with your dancing shoes tonight.

Finally, I would like to say that I thank again all the people who organised this especially the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary organising committee and the clerk to parliament of EALA and more so, the Burundi national assembly for having hosted here for the past two weeks.

And again, all the speakers who are here and their representatives, I thank you. I would like to adjourn the House, but I am only adjourning the House, not the meetings. The meeting will come back after the break, so, when I say I adjourn to January 24<sup>th</sup>, not everybody leaves until January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sorry, before we adjourn, we are going to have a photo opportunity with Rt Hon. Speakers, so, from here we go for that photo, then tea, and we come back here. So, I adjourn the House, until January 24<sup>th</sup> 2012.

*(House was adjourned until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012.)*