



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE BY RT. HON. NGOGA KAROLI MARTIN, SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE 51ST SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

7th to 16th July, 2022, Lilongwe, Malawi

- **Your Excellency, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of SADC;**
- **Your Honour, Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Rt. Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara, MP – Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi;**
- **Justice Kenyatta Nyirenda, who is representing the Chief Justice and all Judges here present;**
- **President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hon Christophe Mbosso N’kodia Pwanga;**
- **Distinguished Speakers and Heads of Delegations from Member Parliaments of the SADC Parliamentary Forum;**
- **Hon. Senator Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan-African Parliament;**
- **Hon. Senator Edwin Mervin Snowe Jr, MP, representing;**
- **Rt. Hon. Sidie Mohamed Tunis, Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament;**
- **The Chairperson of the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, Honourable Regina Esparon;**

- **The Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Ms Boemo Sekgoma;**
- **The First Deputy Speaker, Hon. Madalitso Kazombo, MP;**
- **The Second Deputy Speaker, Hon. Aisha Adams, MP;**
- **The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Malawi, the Norway Ambassador, Your Excellency Mr. Steinar Egil Hagen and all members of the Diplomatic Corps here present;**
- **His Excellency Omar Ernesto Berroteran Paredes, Ambassador of Venezuela to the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present;**
- **Leader of the House, Hon. Richard Chimwendo Banda, MP;**
- **Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Kondwani Nankhumwa, MP;**
- **Members of the Business Committee and the Parliamentary Service Commission from the Parliament of Malawi;**
- **Hon. Alfred Jiya, MP for this Constituency, Lilongwe City Centre and all other Honourable Members from the Parliament of Malawi here present;**
- **The Mayor of the City of Lilongwe, Your Lordship Councilor Richard Banda;**
- **Clerks and Secretaries General of Member Parliaments;**
- **Cooperating Partners;**
- **Staff of SADC PF and all staff of Member Parliaments;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning!

- It is for me a great honor and privilege to join you, in this Lilongwe beautiful city, at the 51st SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly Session.
- At the outset, I congratulate Your Excellency for the continued leadership and wish you well in your endeavor.
- I also congratulate Rt.Hon. Catherine Gothani-Hara and the Parliament of Malawi for hosting this Plenary Session.
- In the same spirit, I wish to extend my deep appreciation to Rt. Hon. Christophe Mbosho N’Kodia Pwanga, President of SADC Parliamentary Forum and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the entire membership of the SADC PF for the invitation to your 51st Plenary Assembly. I present to you all, the compliments of my colleagues, members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me at this juncture to commend SADC PF for choosing to place this Plenary Session under such important theme: **“Towards energy efficiency, sustainability and self-sufficiency in the SADC Region”**, at a times when we are experiencing a rise in prices of oil and gas caused by factors far away from our continent.
- As a matter of fact, higher energy prices are digging into consumer wallets, leading to surge in inflation, and spill over to the costs of broad goods and services as a result of higher production and transportation costs.
- Unfortunately, these negative effects overburden low-income households who form the majority of our electorate, the people that, we, Parliamentarians represent at national and regional levels.

- **We cannot emphasize further the centrality of parliamentary action** for enhanced access to sustainable energy if our regions and the people we represent are to attain the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 7 which calls for “affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” by 2030. In this endeavour, our action should be guided by the **Global roadmap to secure clean energy access for all by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050**, issued by UN Secretary-General as a result of the **UN High-level Dialogue on Energy** held on 24 September, 2021 (which was attended by over 130 Heads of State and Government and global leaders from business and other sectors).

- **Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen**, permit me to share the actions we have undertaken in the EAC region to strengthen our regional cooperation in the energy sector. Under Article 101 of the Treaty (for the Establishment of the EAC), Partner States agreed to adopt policies and mechanisms to promote the efficient exploitation, development, joint research and utilisation of various energy resources available within the region. In the implementation of the Treaty provision, the EAC has:
 - i)* developed a **Regional Power Master Plan** including cross-border electrification, interconnection and hydropower projects such as the Kikagati/Murongo Hydropower project (24 MW) between Tanzania and Uganda, Karuma power plant in Uganda (600 MW), Rusumo falls hydropower project (80 MW) between Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, Nshongezi hydropower project (54MW) between Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda and Ruzizi hydropower project (124 MW) between Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo DRC.
 - ii)* constructed **cross-border power transmission lines** such as the Kenya-Tanzania (Rongai-Kilgoris-Mwanza 400 KV transmission line which is part of Lake Victoria transmission ring).

- iii)* undertaken cross-border oil and gas pipeline projects such as Kenya-South Sudan development of Lamu-Isiolo-Juba crude oil pipeline and the Uganda-Tanzania development of crude oil export pipeline of 1443 km.

Once these projects are fully implemented, they will greatly enhance our regional access to energy and contribute to reducing our dependency to foreign energy markets.

- As you discuss about SADC region self-sufficiency in energy supply, be assured of our support and the readiness of the EAC to partner with you in this endeavour.
To that effect, we should explore joint actions to be undertaken within our traditional roles of legislation, representation and oversight.

- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,** with these few remarks, once again, I thank you for the invitation extended to EALA, and wish you a fruitful symposium and 51st Plenary Assembly Session.

Thank you for your kind attention/ *Merci beaucoup de votre attention /Ahsanteni sana.*