

## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY RT. HON DANIEL FRED KIDEGA, SPEAKER OF EALA AT THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT - 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY, 2016, MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA**

**H.E Roger Nkodo Dang, President of the Pan-African Parliament**

**Hon PAP Members,**

**High ranking Government officials present,**

**Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,**

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:**

I convey to you very warm greetings from the East African Legislative Assembly, the East African Community Secretariat and indeed the citizens of the region in general.

Thank you for the invitation and for the warm reception in ensuring my delegation and I are comfortable.

I am pleased, humbled and honoured to deliver a message of goodwill and solidarity at this official opening ceremony. I take the opportunity at the outset to sincerely thank the President of PAP Speaker, H.E. Nkodo Dang for inviting EALA to this Sitting. I appreciate the warm and cordial relations that exist between the PAP Parliament and the EALA.

## **Excellencies**

Allow me at this juncture to congratulate PAP upon attaining 12 years of service to the continent. We are proud of your successful track record and demonstrated ability over the period.

I extend my salutations to all PAP Members for your commitment towards building the continent. Evidently, you are the best Parliamentarians that Africa could choose at this point in time to steer her to the much cherished unity and prosperity of a United States of Africa. You have our support and prayers and all our hopes are on you.

## **Excellencies,**

The PAP has a noble task of ensuring dialogue, consultation and consensus for the peoples of the African community in order to effectively promote integration. However, this role should and can be strengthened.

I am therefore very pleased and congratulate PAP for passage of the protocol

At EALA, we cherish the long-held dream of a continental bloc.

I say so given the fact the African Union has adopted Agenda 2063 as a vision of where Africa should be after 50 years. The vision will be like a campus guiding AU's Member States to ensure an integrated, united and prosperous United States of Africa.

At the x meeting of the y Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, EALA passed a key resolution

Our experience as a regional Parliament tells an interesting story. We are the Legislative Organ of the EAC established in November. The current five year mandate of which I serve, runs up to June 4<sup>th</sup> 2017. Our Assembly headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania, passes Bills on matters within the purview of the Community. To date, EALA has passed over 50 Bills. The laws enacted supersede national laws and we resort to the East African Court of Justice for the determination of any controversies or disputes that may impede our work.

As the regional Assembly, EALA has a rigorous yet enviable task of legislation, oversight and representation for the over 130 million citizens of the EAC region.

Experience has shown that for regional integration to succeed policies must be people-centred and any results must be tangible, felt and seen. It is recognised that one of the causes of the collapse of the previous regional integration arrangement including the first EAC (1967-77), was the low level of involvement of stakeholders in their activities. This is why the new arrangement emphasises popular participation of all stakeholders.

Parliaments must at all times thus - embrace citizens' participation in the democratic governance processes.

The PAP Parliament is also best placed to enable citizens to realise their aspirations. I encourage you to continue to be steadfast in advocating for a strong continent and the African Union by way of awareness creation among the general population.

Generally, Parliaments across regions face similar hurdles – it is thus vital for PAP to continue with the harnessing of relationships with other like-minded Assemblies like EALA, SADC Parliamentary Forum, ECOWAS among others.

## **Excellencies, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The process of African integration calls for sustained dialogue, collaboration, confidence building and learning between and among Members. I want to emphasise that complementarity and not competition is the way to keep such dialogue alive. The effectiveness and sustainability of Africa and involvement of its people in the development process depends on sustained political will; maintenance of peace and security, development of indigenous capacity for investment as well as good governance.

I would like to appeal to the PAP Parliament to push on with its transformation agenda into a legislative body capable of passing laws to influence national governments. Such would enhance the integration process in the entire continent and the eventual harmonisation of African legislations. In this regard, I want to thank and congratulate PAP for adopting its new Strategic Plan (2014-2017) last week setting the basis for its transformation. EALA stands with you and will always avail herself should you need the services and any other form of support.

Finally, I wish you fruitful deliberations during the entire period. I thank you all for your kind attention.