



**RESOLUTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO
SUPPORT THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE AS A LEVER TO RAISE AN
EAST AFRICAN IDENTITY AND AS AN ASSET TO EAC SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

*By Hon. Straton Ndikuryayo and adopted by the Assembly on Thursday
31st May, 2012*

WHEREAS ARTICLE 119 provides that The Partner States shall promote close cooperation amongst themselves in culture and sports especially with respect to its following sub-paragraphs:

- (c) the promotion of cultural activities including the fine arts, literature, music, the performing arts and any other artistic creations, and the conservation, safeguarding and development of the cultural heritage of the Partner States including historical materials and antiquities;*
- (d) the development and promotion of indigenous languages especially Kiswahili as lingua franca;*
- (h) any other activities aimed at promoting an East African identity.*

AND WHEREAS pursuant to **Article 5 (3)** (d) the Community shall ensure the strengthening and consolidation of the long standing political, economic, social, cultural and traditional ties and associations between the peoples of the Partner States so as to promote a people-centered mutual development of these ties and associations;

AND WHEREAS the undertaking of such activities is calculated to further the objectives of the Community as the Partner State may from time to time decide to undertake in common;

NOTING the fact that most developed and emerging countries rely upon their culture as a major component of their development process;

ACKNOWLEDGING the case of Japan and "the dragons" of South-east Asia as a very practical demonstration of this fact since it is widely believed that they have made such astonishing progress because they have remained true to themselves, to their culture, their history and traditions;

AND CONVINCED that a deep rooted cultural foundation is a condition to achieve a genuine development and a harmonious and sustainable regional integration;

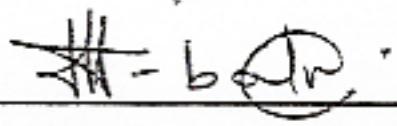
NOW THEREFORE THIS ASSEMBLY DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

THAT This Assembly:

1. Is aware of the importance of culture in our region and recognises it beyond its mere entertainment function, but also as:
 - (a) an important way to federate East Africans, to create a lasting awareness of a common East African identity and to foster a feeling of East African citizenship;
 - (b) an important tool to shape a new East African society and ultimately to change peoples mind sets to smoothly evolve towards a political federation;
 - (c) a significant component of EAC growth opportunities, employment and competitiveness once it is labelled as a sector filled with a wide range of social and economic opportunities to be developed along with the traditional sectors to achieve a harmonious and balanced EAC development.

2. Is committed to disseminate the awareness of the cultural dimension in the regional integration process and to advocate for its inclusion in the EAC programmes and projects.
3. Is committed to support all cultural actions aiming at promoting EAC's integration agenda.
4. Urges the Council of Ministers to endorse this Motion and then take up this issue through relevant EAC Organs in order to provide a framework for its implementation, thus, allowing the Community to celebrate its cultural diversity and enhance its shared cultural heritage, and furthermore to harness the potential described under (1) above.
5. In the purpose to fulfil the above, urges the Council of Ministers to look at means and ways to institute for a one year period and on a rotational basis the designation of an EAC Capital of Culture. Its assignment will be to prepare and host a programme of cultural activities on a specific topic chosen for its clear regional dimension involving various stakeholders operating in the cultural field.

CERTIFIED BY:



**ALEX OBATRE
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATE: 1st June 2012

