



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE SECRETARY GENERAL
AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO ENHANCE ACCESS OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES TO THE NEW EAC HEADQUARTERS**

By Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro and adopted by the Assembly on Thursday 31st May, 2012

WHEREAS the East African Community is grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany for availing funds required to construct a new EAC headquarters building in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

WHEREAS the construction of the said headquarters is on course and nearing completion and will soon be occupied by Members and Officers of the Community notwithstanding that the Assembly held its sitting of 24th June, 2012 in the EALA Chamber at the new EAC Building;

ANDWHEREAS the Sitting of 24th June, 2012 provided an excellent opportunity for the Assembly and its Members to get acquainted with their new home especially the Chamber, the EALA offices, and the precincts of the EAC Parliament which enabled this Assembly to immediately take note of glaring omissions that touch on accessibility to the various points of the building by Persons With Disabilities. (For example the EALA Chamber is not designed with a gentle sloping panel to aid those in wheel chairs or those with visual impairments. Furthermore, the EALA Wing especially the 1st floor to the 3rd floor does not have a state of the art toilet for PWD's;

CONGNIZANT of the fact that Persons with Disabilities are expected to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life and therefore, it is necessary that measures to ensure they have access on an equal basis with others to: physical environment, transportation, information and communication, which should generally lead to the elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility in our new headquarters;

AWARE that the EAC Treaty in Article 20 specifically enjoins the Partner States to closely cooperate amongst themselves in the field of Social welfare to develop and adopt common approaches towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the specific case in point being, access of various locations at Headquarters for PWDs and even the elderly East Africans;

AND CONVINCED that the Secretary General under his functions stipulated in Article 67 (3) can cause the necessary alterations not only in the EALA Chamber, the EALA offices and facilities at the EALA Wing but also the entire building including the offices and facilities in the Wings for the Court and the Secretariat;

NOW THEREFORE, this Assembly do resolve to urge the Secretary General and the Council of the Ministers to enhance access of persons with disabilities to the new EAC Headquarters.

CERTIFIED BY:



[Signature]

DATE:

1st June 2012

**ALEX OBATRE
DEPUTY CLERK**

