

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**



A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, PROTECT VICTIMS OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND PROSECUTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (Treaty) provides under Article 5(1) that the Objectives of the Community shall be to develop principles aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among Partner States in inter alia political, social and cultural fields;

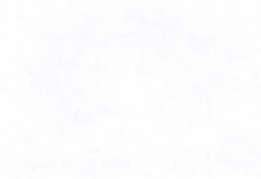
AND WHEREAS Article 5(3)(a) and (b) provides that the Community shall ensure inter alia the attainment of sustainable growth and development by promotion of a more balanced and harmonious development of the Partner States...which would in turn raise the standard of living and improve the quality of life of their population;

WHEREAS the Treaty provides for good governance, social justice, the rule of law, as well as recognition, promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights under Article 6(d) under the Fundamental Principles of the Community and 7 (2) on Operational Principles of the Community;

AND WHEREAS Article 124 (5) of the Treaty provides that Partner States agree to enhance co-operation in the handling of cross border crime, provision of mutual assistance in criminal matters including the arrest and repatriation of fugitive offenders and the exchange of information on national mechanisms for combating criminal activities.

AWARE THAT all EAC Partner States have signed onto the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children which

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A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER INFRINGEMENTS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ON ACCOUNT OF THE FACTS THAT THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY...

WHEREAS the Assembly has the honour to be informed that the Commission of the East African Community has been established in accordance with the provisions of the East African Community Treaty, signed in Addis Ababa on 22nd July 1967, and that the Commission has been entrusted with the task of promoting the economic development of the East African Community...

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supplements The Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime also referred to as the Palermo Protocol.

NOTING THAT cases of Trafficking in Persons have been reported in all EAC Partner States; and are according to reported trends on the increase.

FURTHER NOTING THAT Trafficking in Persons also known as Modern Day Slavery is a grave abuse of human rights and is caused by several drivers which include – poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment, promises of a better life and better opportunities - glorification of the west, greed and corruption, harmful traditional practices such as child sacrifice, bad governance, displacement of persons due natural and manmade disasters - and thus must be urgently stemmed utilizing a multifaceted approach.

NOW THEREFORE THIS ASSEMBLY DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **THAT** the Council of Ministers urges EAC Partner States to enact comprehensive anti-trafficking persons legislation in accordance with The Palermo Protocol which incorporates prevention of Trafficking in Persons, protection of victims of the crime of trafficking in persons and prosecution of offenders ; and promote increased cooperation in efforts on implementation of Anti - Trafficking legislations in the EAC Partner States.
2. **THAT** the EAC Community is urged to enact an anti-trafficking in persons legislation to address the cross border aspect of Trafficking in Persons.
3. **THAT** the EAC Community in Partnership with EAC Partner States compiles and provides data on the trend and extent of the Trafficking in Persons crime within, from and into the East African Community.
4. **THAT** the EAC Partners States establish lead offices and Inter – agency Task Forces – with government and non-government actors, to combat Trafficking in Persons and provide adequate resources for implementation of the law including

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training of Justice, Law and Order Sector Actors; mechanisms for victim assistance; extradition and repatriation.

5. **THAT** the Council of Ministers operationalizes Article 27 of the Treaty and concludes a protocol to extend jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice to handle human rights cases which encompass Trafficking in Persons.
6. **THAT** the Council of Ministers urges Partner States to - increase oversight of and accountability of overseas recruitment agencies, implementation of adoption laws, and allocate resources to Embassies of the EAC Partner States to keep track of nationals, and assist victims of Trafficking in Persons.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

Moved by: Hon. Dora C. Kanabahita Byamukama

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Seconded by: Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro

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