

RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY SEEKING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

MOTION

The Speaker: Hon. Members, before I call hon. Karan. I would like to recognise in the gallery the presence of hon. Hawa Abdulrahman, who is the Minister of State in the President's Office in the United Republic of Tanzania.

(Applause)

karibu sana. She was attending the 23rd Extra Ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Clarkason Karan (Kenya): Mr Speaker, Sir, since I am rising on the floor of this House for the first time, allow me also to thank the Government of Rwanda-

The Speaker: Honourable, move your motion first so that we give you an opportunity to say those things.

Mr Karan: Mr Speaker, I wish to move a motion that the Assembly do resolve to pay tribute to hon. Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, outgoing Secretary General to the East African Community for the exemplary work in furtherance of the Community. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded.

Mr Karan: Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me also to thank the government of Rwanda and the Rwanda National Assembly, members of the EALA chapter from Rwanda for the welcome they have given us and for the atmosphere they have created to give an enabling environment for widening and deepening without introducing non tariff barriers.

Mr Speaker, I now wish to move the motion that

"WHEREAS the tenure of the service of hon. Ambassador Juma Volter Mwapachu, our Secretary General of the East African Community and the Ex-officio member of the august House is soon coming to an end

RECALLING THAT hon. Ambassador Mwapachu's appointment was a true reflection of the accomplishment he registered in his long service as a public servant and a career diplomat

ARSING from being the first graduate appointee in the Police service of Tanzania in 1969 to be the Secretary General of the East African Community from April 2006

FURTHER RECALLING his excellence at the law school at the University of East Africa where he received a number of accolade sand later on distinguished himself as a write and an academic resulting into conferment of a doctorate degree upon him

NOTING THAT academic brilliance and commitment to hard work earned him recognition by the government which led to his appointment to serve in the Attorney General at Seba, the National Bank of Commerce and later in the 1973 to diplomatic service, an achievement that

made him the most suitable candidate for appointment as Secretary General for the East African Community in April 2006 for a five year period

FULLY APPRECIATIVE hon. Ambassador Mwapachu's tenure as a dedicated Secretary General of the Community which was marked by significant milestones and achievements for all to see namely one, he never wavered in his desire to see the East African Community grow leaps and bounds.

As an Assembly, we can conclude that he is a dedicated servant of the East African Community.

(Applause)

He offered leadership in the implementation of the East African Community Customs Union which had been probably a year before he joined. He offered leadership for the successful negotiation for the East African Common Market which was signed in November 2006, he has offered leadership for the development of the terms of reference to spearhead the negotiation of the East African Community Monetary Union which is our next level of integration.

He facilitated the admission of the two Partner States of Rwanda and Burundi in the East African fraternity.

He spearheaded the enhancement of terms and conditions of members of EAC staff.

He tirelessly worked to expand the revenue resource base of East Africa especially from the development Partners.

He emphasised the need for East Africa to have its own headquarters and this has come to reality with the construction at a very advanced stage.

He continues to stress the need for creation for new institutions of the Community for further deepening and widening the integration agenda.

His tenure has a marked improvement in the development of regional infrastructure to facilitate investment, tourism and trade.

His tenure has seen a marked visibility of the EAC and more East Africans are taking keen interest in the Community Affairs and above all, he has greatly facilitated the work of all the organs, institutions of the Community namely the Summit, the Council and its structures, the Assembly, the Court of Justice, the Secretariat and all EAC institutions.

NOW THEREFORE

- 1. This Assembly registers its gratitude to hon. Ambassador Juma Volta Mwapachu for the dedicated service he has rendered to this Community.*
- 2. Urges the Chairperson of the Council to transmit its resolution to the Summit for noting and*

3. *Urges the Minister for East African Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania to transmit this resolution to His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for noting.*"

(Applause)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make a few comments in support of the resolution we are calling upon. The Ambassador Juma Mwapachu is slightly older than this Assembly within the Community so when we talk about him, you are talking about an administrator that we know quite well.

I want to say that Ambassador Mwapachu as the Secretary General of the Community steered the Community when things were not very easy and you could witness that there have been calls for the amendment of the Treaty and within those issues which were there, he still managed to run the Community to take it to the level which he has taken it.

(Applause)

Without any fear of contradiction, I want to say that Ambassador Mwapachu as a lawyer demonstrated a few instances which really proved that as a lawyer he is somebody who fears to go against the law.

There was an incident where there was confusion and the Assembly sitting was suspended. When Ambassador Mwapachu realised that it was not within his ability to suspend the sitting of the Assembly, he readily worked and made sure that the Assembly sat because he did not want to go against the Treaty which said that that authority was not within his mandate.

Mr Speaker, the other incident was when I was given the opportunity to lead a Select Committee arising out of what I have talked, I had an occasion to contemplate using a sermon to Ambassador Juma Mwapachu to appear before the committee because of the commitment he had and so had not appeared.

But when he realised that he was going against the law, the Ambassador came before the committee and I would admire his humility in handling issues and the way he apologised to the committee demonstrated that he is a lawyer that would not want to go against the law.

I have seen so many people who have studied law and they break the same laws with impunity. They never even dared to apologise-

(Interruption)

Ms Dora Byamukama: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order because from the tone of hon. Karan, he is insinuating that there are some lawyers who are ready to breach the law. This is a very dangerous statement. Is he in order and if is in order, I would like to ask him to substantiate because this is very serious against the legal profession. I thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable, there are many lawyers here who kept quiet.

Mr Karan: Mr Speaker, hon. Dora as a lawyer has not breached any law but that does not mean that I have not seen some unless she is intending to do that but I have seen some lawyers who normally do that with impunity. But I know that hon. Dora as a lawyer has always been pro-law and she never goes against the law so she should not worry, Mr Speaker.

I want to say that besides what I have narrated that has been the achievement of Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, I want to say that even socially the Secretary General has been a social person.

It is normally said that hard work and no play makes Jack a dull boy but Ambassador Juma Mwapachu is always available for even social times to be able to interact with people and if the EAC would have dared to organise a dancing competition, Mr Speaker I do not know any within the EAC who would have taken the trophy apart from Ambassador Juma Mwapachu.

(Laughter)

Mr Speaker, I want to say that we will miss Ambassador Juma Mwapachu. He is the Secretary General that we have learnt to work with, the one who would always wasn't to discuss issues which are beforehand whether they are difficult or not but we hope that if he ever had an opportunity to recommend his successor, he must have recommended somebody who has his values for this Assembly to be able to continue.

I think he is one of the eminent persons within the East African Community and when there will be a decision within this Community to have some eminent person. I would think that this would be the person to considered to be one of the eminent persons to keep on giving his advice to the Community.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to pat tribute to hon. Ambassador Juma Volta Mwapachu, outgoing Secretary General of the East African Community for his exemplary work in furtherance of the Community. Debate is open.

Ms Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, sir. I beg to support this motion and to say from the offset that my point of order was on a light note and at the same time a very serious note considering that I believe that Ambassador Mwapachu's profession as a lawyer in a major way enabled him to carry out his work in a very distinguished manner.

Hon. Ambassador Mwapachu has very many titles. Allow me to refer to him as Ambassador for this purpose and to say that we are honoured in many ways to have served with him at this particular point in time and I would like to say that as a member of the legal committee, we had several moments where we exchanged notes on issues of interpretation of the Treaty and I believe this in a major way enhanced the operations not only of the Assembly but of the other organs of the Community.

My second point relates to his background. I believe that his background, which enabled him to associate with distinguished persons at the University of Dar es Salaam in the names of the Rt Hon. Eriya Kategaya, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and other distinguished East

African personalities has enabled him perform his work in a smoother manner and this is an added advantage that we have had by having Ambassador Mwapachu as Secretary General.

Mr Speaker sir, his other background in the Police Force as well as a lawyer obviously instilled in him the elements of discipline which have been referred to in this particular motion.

I would like to say that I have had some moments of discussion with Ambassador Mwapachu and I have encouraged him to put down his memoirs as regards his period as SG in the East African Community. I believe that when these memoirs are published, they will enable us and him to put together his ideas in a way which is more liberated because he will not be chained down by the rigours of his office and therefore he will be in a better state of mind and therefore he will be in a better state of mind to be able to advise in a more concrete and constructive manner.

There are several other accomplishments that are attributed to Ambassador Mwapachu and I believe he will be able to capture some of these in his memoirs. Allow me to note that I was privileged to attend the media summit, which brought together different media houses in Nairobi and this was one of the fora which I believe was his brain child so yesterday when we were mentioning civil society organisations and asking for a forum, I believe that this is such a forum which enhanced the stature of the East African Community and enabled us to put our message to the peoples of East Africa.

Allow me to also highlight the fact that under his tenure of service, we have had increased funding to the Community from the partners which obviously shows that there has been confidence building and in effect, we are now looking at ways of how we can actually control this but in itself, the fact that we have gotten increased funding is very positive and is a clear indicator of success from the leadership of Ambassador Mwapachu.

There are other areas which I could mention for example I am particularly gratified that he supported good governance to the extent of supporting the autonomy of the Assembly in particular and by doing this, he has enabled us to execute our functions without any inhibition and we shall be grateful to him because we believe that we have been able to accomplish a lot because of his attitude.

I would like to also highlight another aspect which is the anthem and it is unfortunate that he may leave before he hears it played in the Assembly. This is a particular aspect and part of his legacy and the fact that now we have an East African anthem is one particular attribute that I would like to attribute to Ambassador Mwapachu because I know and I believe that he was deeply involved in ensuring that the anthem is realised and achieved and this is one of the legacies that he will leave.

The other more important aspect is the fact that he continued with the essay competitions. I believe that this is one way we can involve the young generation in the activities of the Community. Mr Speaker sir, as you note, I could go on and on but permit me to conclude by saying that hon. Karan actually took the thunder out of my speech. I wanted to add an

amendment and also since he has already acknowledged it that we declare Ambassador Juma Mwapachu an eminent East African, that we urge him to publish his memoirs so that these can be put to use by all East Africans and in particular the East African Community.

And that we urge Ambassador Mwapachu our dear friend to continue supporting the integration process.

I would like to conclude that I do not want to seem as if we shall not see him again but by saying that Ambassador Mwapachu is very lucky in that he has been able to listen in to part of his legacy. Sometimes when these issues are said, most times we are not able to listen to them so he is a very lucky man and we wish him every success now and in the future. I thank you.

(Applause)

MR MIKE SEBALU (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I do rise to support this motion. It is a definitely very important motion but before I do so, I also want to thank the Republic of Rwanda for hosting us ye another time. We are home and enjoying ourselves and it could never have been a better venue for Volta to be recognised.

My contribution is a bit emotional because he is a good friend and you will permit me to go my separate way. If I had my way, I would have given Volta another term of office but since I don't have my way, I don't want to pursue that further.

He has performed beyond any expectations and he has added a lot of value to the East African Community. There is one thing that he has done and he has done it well. Volta is leaving the EAC deeper and wider than he found it. His ability to widen and deepen therefore cannot be under estimated. That should be part of his memoirs. He has done it excellently and there is all the evidence to prove that he has done it.

Volta reminds me of John Travolta. Those of you that saw Travolta on the floor definitely know where the name Volta comes from and he has done that pretty well. He is a handsome man, he is smart and he is elegant. Using those virtues, he has projected the EAC very positively. His diplomatic background has come in handy and he has seen EAC's visibility within diplomatic circles rise beyond any level.

The level of accreditation that we attracted from powerful nations of the world and international organisations are getting accredited at Arusha is something worth writing home about and definitely his diplomatic background must have played a big role in elevating EAC as a diplomatic institution. We thank you for that. When we move around the world, you hear people really acknowledging EAC so the visibility has been very well achieved courtesy of the good works and diplomatic skills of Volta Mwapachu.

He is a good communicator and he is quite skilled in the English language, he speaks very good English, flowing English very understandable and very clear. Therefore he makes his messages very well understood, appreciated and acknowledged and I believe he has been able to use that

communication skill to attract a lot of attention for the EAC region and for that, we are very grateful and you will always be remembered for those good works.

He is a man with good interpersonal skills and relations. You could see him joke around with his juniors and every one creating a sense of belonging and family within EAC. You are leaving EAC more united as a family and our challenge is to build on what you have already achieved in that direction.

He is a man with a high sense of humour and quite well levelled as well. That is something that is very important when you are managing very complex organisations like the EAC. If you do it flat, you don't get things moving so that sense of humour was an additional virtue that made him do his work very well.

He could present himself in a very simple way but behind that simplicity was a man with a high level of sophistication and that is Volta for you. He is that kind of person that is multi skilled and multi talented.

He is one of the few lawyers who did not over play his legal background. Many lawyers begin by saying, you know I am a lawyer but he never did that. You would read about it but it would

Never be part of his introduction and for that I must salute him and appreciate that level of engagement.

If you looked at Volta, you can't see any Police in him. He does not command or order but that is the serious policeman he is because you don't see it in him anyway. I think you are really very lucky to have gone to the police school and yet came out as a good civilian. That is quite interesting about Volta.

One thing that I will always remember about him is that you could bash Volta and we really did some serious bashing. We could engage him and put him on the wall but what he could reciprocate you with was a smashing smile. He could disarm you. After you have gone full length, he reciprocates with a smile. That is really something that I will always remember Volta about.

He has done his bit and done it pretty well and he has left a legacy. He has made a very good contribution to EAC and at this point, I think we really need to get some of these very good performing East Africans. We are going to have the new headquarters of the EAC for which he worked very tirelessly and put a lot of efforts. When we are opening it, definitely Volta has to take a very prominent role. I am suggesting that we get portraits of these Secretary Generals and they line up the headquarters because they have made a contribution and they must have a living legacy so that whoever goes to Arusha, they are able to see these distinguished sons and daughters of East Africa who have made significant contribution.

I pray that that is considered and we get them lined up for posterity to know that at some point in time as East Africa evolved, there were these distinguished East Africans who played their part and played it well.

I want to end by quoting Mahatma Gandhi who said that be the change you want to see in the world. I think Volta has been the change he wanted to see at EAC and the individual challenges we have is to play our part building on what he has done.

Keep with us Volta, we are still around. We are your friends and we still need your wise counsel, your experience and all those virtues that you have.

Finally, I want to end by thanking His Excellency Jakaya Morisho Kikwete for having identified such a wonderful talent of an East African and made it possible for him to serve in the capacity of Secretary General of East African Community. Your tour of duty has been worthwhile and has been very productive and you have added value to the East African Community.

Mr Speaker, you can speak about Volta until cows come home, you can never end because he is many in himself but for the interest of time, I want to leave it at that point saying that Volta, you have made us proud and done a good job for EAC. Thank you. *(Applause)*

MR GEORGE FRANCIS NANGALE (Tanzania): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also want to join my colleagues to extend my sincere support to this motion particularly coming from hon. Clarkson Otieno Karan, the former Chair of the Select Committee on Suspension of EALA session, the motion which took all of us thinking loud about so many things which has happened then.

Hon. Speaker, since 2006 when hon. Mwapachu assumed office to date, a lot has happened. They say a lot of water has passed under the bridge. Ambassador Mwapachu suffered severe back pain, we remember during that time but thank God he battled through and today he can again dance and spend many long hours working which is typical of EAC.

During his era, hon. Mwapachu has indeed transformed the East African Community into a serious internationally respected regional body geared in improving the living standards of its people. Hon. Mwapachu has contributed in the management of the EAC Secretariat from the implementation of the Customs Union to the negotiation and eventual signing of the Common Market and this will always remain his legacy.

Mr Speaker, I believe the East African Community still needs the service of hon. Mwapachu not as a self landing but I would like to encourage Ambassador Mwapachu to consider vying for an EALA seat next year and I will campaign for him. Hon Speaker, I support the motion, thank you.

MR ERIYA KATEGAYA (Uganda): Mr Speaker sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to say something about my college mate Ambassador Juma Mwapachu.

I want to draw on the background where we met and how we were shaped to become East Africans. When I joined the University College of Dar es Salaam at that time, it was part of East African University. I found that Ambassador Mwapachu and his group had been expelled from the university for being rebels not in the strong word but rebels against the National Service which had been started in Tanzania.

That is how I eventually met him at our school of law. At that time, the atmosphere at the university had two aspects in terms of politics. One was the liberation struggles in Southern Africa in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, and Southern Africa which we used to call Azania. Tanzania was playing a glorious role in hosting all these liberation movements.

At the university we had a lot of lectures on the liberation, not of Africa but almost the third world; Cuba, Vietnam, the Black Panther in USA so the atmosphere was really to get us outside our boxes of national countries.

Ambassador Mwapachu was very active in Turn Youth League I remember and recruited us to join Turn Youth League. I remember we took part. They had no problem for Ugandans and the rest to join Turn Youth League and participate in the politics of Tanzania.

So the performance of my colleague and friend for me is not surprising because at that time, we were looking at Africa as a whole and Pan Africanism to summarise. We looked at the integration of Africa as part of the politics of liberation. The first part was to throw out colonialism and the second part was to unite Africa. The integration of East Africa was on the agenda in that sense that integration of East Africa is extension of the liberation of Africa and I am told in that spirit that Ambassador Mwapachu was shaped to be East African and some of us were shaped to be East African even beyond East Africa.

So I am glad that he has done his part, he has performed his duties as a Pan Africanist and I am happy that you have kept the tradition of the Faculty of Law of Dar es Salaam because as somebody said, if you look at the people who have championed the integration of East Africa, I must say selfishly that the Law Faculty of Dar es Salaam has played a bit part.

Others have come but I must say that we have done every well. In fact, we need to find a way of generating that atmosphere which created the thinking and belief in integration of East Africa and Africa as a whole. At the moment, I don't think the universities are as vibrant in matters of liberation and Pan Africanism as before in our times. Maybe we need some of the new institutions like the Inter University Council to generate that spirit and atmosphere of creating cadres of people who believe in the integration of Africa staying with East Africa.

As I have often said, the integration of East Africa and Africa is of strategic importance that we need to move from irrational boundaries dividing our people unnecessarily, boundaries which we actually never made. They were not our boundaries and you find people are vehemently defending these borders which are actually not our borders. We need to create our own borders which make sense like we are doing in East Africa and I am glad Ambassador Mwapachu you have played your part in this very historic exercise.

Lastly, I think we need to use the wisdom, experience and knowledge of people like Ambassador Mwapachu in our continued exercise of integration. I hope tomorrow when you are out of the office you will not be forgotten. I think we should start as culture as somebody was saying, apart from the portraits and the rest, of using the knowledge and experience they have in integration.

Societies are not just made yesterday or by events, it is by experience. It is the contribution of people like Ambassador Mwapachu that should be shared, valued and analysed for future use.

With these few words, Mr Speaker sir, I also support this motion and appreciate the contribution of Ambassador Mwapachu to the integration of East Africa and hope that your successor will definitely build on what you have done but also further take us forward in our integration. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, as you know the Rwanda Parliament is sitting this afternoon and we are supposed to finalise our sitting by 12.30 p.m. which we have already passed. So I will now call hon. Karan to reply.

Mr Karan: Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to reply. Let me take the opportunity to thank all the members who have contributed to this worthy motion and in their contribution, they have brought up issues, which other people did not know about the Ambassador. All in all, one thing has come out quite prominently that the talent of Ambassador Juma Mwapachu within the East African Community context should be nurtured and a mechanism should be found so that people can still borrow from his knowledge and be able to consult him.

Further, I would also wish to support the suggestion, which was given that there should be a mechanism of having the portraits of those Secretaries General who have served because they have left a mark. We are working for the future and future East Africans would want to know what his story was and the contributions of the people who served.

Otherwise Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to pay tribute to hon. Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, outgoing Secretary General of the East African Community for his exemplary work in furtherance of the Community.

(Question proposed and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to make a few announcements before we adjourn. First and foremost now that I found out where the name Volta came from, we want to see it in practise this evening.

(Laughter)

The Assembly is organising a function this evening in honour of hon. Mwapachu at 7.00 p.m. at the Serena. So bring your dancing shoes even though formal. From what I hear, hon. Mwapachu doesn't need anything, he can do it in anything so we will be ready for him this evening.

Secondly, I would like to say that we are having our interactive session with the members of the Rwanda Parliament tomorrow. It starts at 9.00 a.m. so please be punctual.

Three, as you are aware, His Excellency Nkurunziza will be coming on Monday evening for the address of the EAC on Tuesday morning so we are having our sitting on Monday instead of Tuesday. We shall have the sitting on Monday 9.30 a.m.

I now adjourn the House until Monday 9.30 a.m.

(The House rose at and adjourned until Monday, 04 April 2011 at 9.30 a.m.)