



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**EALA/SECRETARIAT JOINT RETREAT**

**4 - 6, OCTOBER, 2003,**

**SOPA LODGE TARANGIRE**

# **RESOLUTIONS OF THE JOINT RETREAT**

**OCTOBER 6, 2003**

## **PREAMBLE**

The East African Legislative Assembly together with the Executive staff of the Secretariat;

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that in the past some unfortunate events could have happened that caused uneasiness in the relations between the Assembly and Secretariat;

**REALIZING** the need to exchange views on how to enhance intra-organ relations with specific reference to improving working relations between the EALA and the EAC Secretariat;

**DESIROUS** to initiate the establishment of the intra-organ forum for enhancing dialogue on issues concerning the East African Community;

**CONVINCED** that there was need to chart a way forward to establish practical working relationships between the organs of the Community;

**HAVING RE-EXAMINED** the mandate of each organ as enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community;

**AWARE** of the adverse publicity and idle speculation which have been generated by reports on these uneasy relationships;

**DETERMINED** to serve the East African Community for a common goal, that is; advocating unity of our people and the promotion of faster integration of the Partner States;

Held a retreat at Sopa Lodge, Tarangire National Park, Babati District, Manyara Region in the United Republic of Tanzania from 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 and thereafter **RESOLVED** as follows:-



## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **The Treaty**

Convinced that the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community contains some deficiencies with regard to its implementation, the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges and some selected Staff of the EAC Secretariat should review the Treaty with a view to identifying and making recommendations for the amendment of provisions that create difficulties in the relations between the various organs of the Community.

### **The East African Community Financial Resources**

Having noted the inadequacies in the EAC resource base and the budgeting process:

1. There is need to explore avenues for securing sustainable sources of revenue;
2. There is need to review the current budgetary process to ensure that all organs are involved in all the preparatory stages before presentation to the Council;
3. The EAC budget process should begin early enough to ensure that it fits within the national budget cycles of Partner States;
4. There is need for the national chapters of the EALA to lobby the Partner States' Ministries of Finance to ensure adequate funding for EAC and timely remittance of contributions to the budget;
5. The Organs of EAC should coordinate their activities in sourcing for funds and at all times ensure proper and prompt accountability.

### **Communication**

Concerned that there is lack of a communication policy between the Organs of the Community:

1. Communication between the EALA, EACJ and the EAC Secretariat should be through officially recognized channels provided that emergencies will be handled expeditiously;



2. The programmes of the EALA while in Arusha should always be preceded by a briefing session by the Secretariat on the activities of the Community carried out while the Assembly was in recess;
3. The EAC Secretariat should ensure that all documents of common interest are availed to the EALA and EACJ for information;
4. The EAC Secretariat should avail Members of the EALA and EACJ with copies of the proposals for the revision of the Staff and Financial Rules and Regulations;
5. The programmes of activities of the various Organs of the Community should be synchronized to avoid clashes of dates. In this regard, the Secretariat, EALA and EACJ will closely coordinate the preparation of their activities. Flexibility should however, be exercised should unforeseen circumstances necessitate the rescheduling of planned activities.
6. The EALA and the EACJ will always be informed of the officer holding the fort at any given time whenever the Secretary General is away from Arusha.

### **Assembly Programmes**

Having realised the need for a Legislative Programme by which the Council will initiate and submit Bills to the Assembly, it was resolved that the Counsel to the Community prepares Bills on such matters as require immediate legislation.

### **Interpersonal Relations**

Having noted the fact that at times issues of mutual concern to the organs are treated as personal to the officer bearers and not to the offices;

1. There is need to change our perceptions and mind-sets against each other in order to stop mutual suspicion, rumour mongering, clashes and ensure co-ordination of efforts and cohesive discharge of functions;



2. There is need to distinguish institutional matters from personal matters;
3. It is important to realise that compromise is a management virtue; thus the need to approach issues with open minds as opposed to pre-determined positions;
4. To err is human and it prudently dictates that the source of error should be identified in order to find the necessary solutions;

### **EAC Management Programmes and Activities**

Having recognised the need to improve the management of the programmes and activities of EAC;

1. The EALA should be involved in the current process for the recruitment of the Clerk to the EALA;
2. The EALA should make recommendations to Council for the establishment of modalities for the future recruitment of EALA staff;
3. Agreed that members will be availed copies of the Staff Rules and Financial Rules and Regulations for information and necessary action;
4. As a general rule, executive staff of the EAC should not be away from Arusha at a go provided that in exceptional circumstances when this cannot be avoided, delegation should be effective;
5. Notwithstanding the above, the Executive staff should always be available to participate in EALA planned activities. To this end, the EALA was urged to consider granting Executive Staff of EAC permanent membership to the House Business Committee;
6. Agreed that the Secretariat would work with the EALA to look at modalities for providing more office space and infrastructural facilitation to the EALA and generally create an enabling environment for the smooth operation of the EALA.



1. There is need to change our perceptions and mind-sets against each other in order to stop mutual suspicion, rumour mongering, clashes and ensure co-ordination of efforts and cohesive discharge of functions;
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### **EAC Management Programmes and Activities**

Having recognised the need to improve the management of the programmes and activities of EAC;

1. EALA should be involved in EALA staff recruitment process without undermining their role in the already established vetting process of candidates;
2. Agreed that members will be availed copies of the Staff Rules and Financial Rules and Regulations for information and necessary action;
3. As a general rule, executive staff of the EAC should not be away from Arusha at a go provided that in exceptional circumstances when this cannot be avoided, delegation should be effective;
4. Notwithstanding the above, the Executive staff should always be available to participate in EALA planned activities. To this end, the EALA was urged to consider granting Executive Staff of EAC permanent membership to the House Business Committee;
5. Agreed that the Secretariat would work with the EALA to look at modalities for providing more office space and infrastructural facilitation to the EALA and generally create an enabling environment for the smooth operation of the EALA.



## **Outreach Programme**

Having recognised the need for effective coordination of the EAC outreach programme:

1. Agreed that the EALA and the Secretariat would cooperate and mutually participate in the outreach programmes of either organ;
2. Adequate budgetary provisions be made for this purpose;
3. Agreed to formally obtain accreditation with relevant international organization with relevant to EAC objectives;
4. Monitor the programmes of such international organizations, mutually agree and plan for participation of the EAC delegations to the meetings and facilitate their participation.

## **General Resolutions**

1. There is need to have regular retreats to discuss issues of mutual interest.
2. The other organs of the Community should be informed of the outcome of this Retreat;
3. The EAC Secretariat should introduce a transparent grievance handling system;
4. The following Committee was formed to oversee the implementation of these Resolutions: one Deputy Secretary General, Clerk of the Assembly, Registrar of the Court of Justice, Hon. Yona Kanyomozi, Hon. Kate Kamba and Hon. Rose Waruhiu.