



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY RT. HON. NGOGA K. MARTIN, SPEAKER OF
EALA AT THE ADDRESS BY RT. HON. REBECCA ALITWALA KADAGA,
SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA – JANUARY 23RD, 2018,
KAMPALA, UGANDA**

- **Your Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda**
- **Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda**
- **Hon. Chairperson and Members of the EAC Council of Ministers**
- **Speakers' Emeritus, Rt Hon Abdirahin Abdi and Rt Hon Daniel F. Kidega**
- **Your Lordship Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, President of the East African Court of Justice**
- **Hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Uganda,**
- **Members' *Emeritus* of EALA present**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corp**
- **Senior Government officials in attendance**
- **Representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I wish you all a progressive and fruitful New Year, 2018.

I thank the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the Parliament of Uganda and the entire Government of the Republic of Uganda for accepting to host EALA at the commencement of its 2nd Meeting of the 1st Session of the 4th Assembly.

Your Excellency:

I thank the Rt Hon Speaker for the great lengths she and the Parliament went through to ensure our stay is made comfortable right from the period we arrived in Kampala last week. Rt Hon Speaker, EALA is cognizant of the fact that your House is currently sitting. In addition, Parliament of Uganda is hosting the annual Parliament Week. Yet, despite your very busy schedule, you found both space and time to accommodate us. Yesterday, Rt Hon Kadaga made time to officially open our induction programme where she re-assured us of her full collaboration. We thank you Rt Hon Speaker and the Parliament of Uganda for your generosity. The Members and I are most grateful for your magnanimity and true sign of friendship.

The relations between the Parliament of Uganda and EALA continue to be warm and very cordial. Today, both Assemblies keep avenues open for regular consultations at the Speakership level and among Members of Parliament. We as the 4th Assembly will do all that it takes to strengthen the relations and to take them a notch higher.

As a former Member of the 3rd Assembly and a returnee to the 4th EALA, I am seized of the fact that 3rd EALA collaborated very closely and in a number of areas with the Parliament of Uganda in general and the Rt Hon Speaker specifically. I am aware of the fact that Rt Hon Kadaga inspired and made tremendous contribution to the EAC Bureau of Speakers, which is the politico-bureau of Speakers that sit regularly to deliberate on progress of the integration.

In addition, Members of staff from across various departments of both Parliament of Uganda and EALA, continue to learn and to benefit from each other's experiences. Our presence here today is a further sign of true friendship and commitment that both institutions enjoy as they strengthen ties and promote the integration process.

Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC envisages the liaison with the National Assemblies of the Partner States on matters related to the Community. It is pleasing to note that under your leadership, the Parliamentary Committee on EAC Affairs, led by Hon Tony Ayoo, has continued to remain vibrant. In fact, this Committee and others continuously interface with EALA through visits by delegations to the headquarters and wherever possible, in the various capitals where we hold the Sittings. The experiences shared and exchanged have indeed been worth the while.

That said, as I take my "initial steps" in the new role of Speakership, I wish to thank you in a special way for the support you are already and

will continue to render me as we consult on Parliamentary matters and on other regional matters that are healthy and mutual for our Institutions.

My colleagues and I have taken note of your advice when you opened the induction meeting yesterday, that we need to do more to take the message of integration and its benefits to the people. We shall prioritise sensitization and outreach programmes in our planning.

I wish you well as you continue to provide the deserved leadership to your Parliament and the much-needed guidance to EALA.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda to make her remarks.