

**THE SPEECH OF HE SPEAKER OF THE CHAMBER OF  
DEPUTIES AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
SECOND MEETING OF THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF EALA  
SESSIONS**

**Parliament, 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2014**

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- **Right Honorable Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly,**
- **Right Honorable the President of the Senate,**
- **Right Honorable Chief Justice,**
- **Right Honorable Prime Minister,**
- **Honorable Ministers,**
- **Honorable Secretary General of East African Community,**
- **Honorable Members of the East African Legislative Assembly,**
- **Honorable members of Rwanda Parliament,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Chamber of Deputies and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to be here with you today, on this occasion of the official opening ceremony of the Second Meeting of the Third Assembly of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) sessions. First and foremost I have to thank Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Speaker of the East

African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and allow me, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, to warmly welcome Her Excellency.

- Allow me also to extend a warm welcome to Dr Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) and Honorable members of EALA.
- A sincere welcome to all Distinguished Guests from Rwanda and abroad. I say Karibuni Sana.
- **Excellences,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
  
- Your meetings in Kigali have great significance. We appreciate this spirit of rotating and having EALA meetings in all partner States. This is vital as the people from these States recognize and understand more the importance of the regional integration. That gives you the motivation to work hard and closely to achieve the objectives of the Community. The Rwanda Parliament is honored to host these sessions and will do all that is within the range of its possibilities to facilitate the EALA meetings to be conducted in better conditions.
- The EALA meetings will definitely discuss the progress of the implementation of the objectives already achieved and what is the way forward to conclude the remaining stages. The objective of the Treaty establishing the East African Community has four stages. A Customs Union as an entry point of the Community which include among others liberalization of intra-regional trade in goods on the basis of mutually beneficial trade arrangements among Partner States; Promotion of efficiency

in production within the community; enhancement of domestic, cross border and foreign investment; Promotion of economic development and diversification in industrialization.

- The second stage of the EAC integration is the Common Market. The Creation of the EAC Common Market is deepening the integration, accelerate economic growth and promote development. It is aimed at strengthening, coordinating and regulating the economic and trade relations among partner states. the Protocol on EAC Common Market providing for: Free movement of goods; Free movement of persons; Free movement of labour; Right of establishment; Right of residence; Free movement of services; and Free movement of capital.
- The third stage being the EAC Monetary Union. Substantial ground has already been covered in harmonising monetary and fiscal policies within EAC. The protocol for the monetary union was signed last year with a roadmap of ten years. We have to ensure their implementation and do self-evaluation of their impact.
- The ultimate stage is the Political Federation. On this point, the Summit has tasked the Council of Ministers to initiate the process towards establishment of the Political Federation of the Partner States.
- I am delighted to note that the two weeks of the session's activities will also be an opportunity for you as representatives of East Africans to gather as One People with a Common Destiny.
- We have to acknowledge the great importance of coming together, to interact and share experiences and expertise meant to foster social cohesion

and unity, among the people of East African Region. This will be achieved because of the strong political will and strong commitment of our leaders.

- We also need a close collaboration with the private sector and civil society because this partnership is the foundation to strengthen our economic, social, cultural, industrial, technological, infrastructure, services and other ties for sustainable development.
- We, leaders from EAC partner States at different levels are eagerly committed to continue educating our people on the principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of Human rights.
- This will definitely raise the standards of living of East African peoples and enhance economic stability and foster close and peaceful relations among partner States.
  
- **Distinguished guests,**
  
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**
  
- I would like to inform my fellow members of the Assembly that in our country, we have the collective community work called “Umuganda”, which takes place every last Saturday of the month countrywide. I take this opportunity to invite you to participate to this important activity. I am very sure that you will be impressed and excited, and this will prove how it is good to work together. When you work together, you are energetic, enthusiastic, and happy and in a short of time you do a wonderful job.

- But more importantly, our “umuganda” is a forum for people who live in the same village/community to discuss different issues and find solutions to their problems using this home grown initiative.
- On these few words, I once again thank you all and I wish our guests a good stay in our beautiful country. Once again you are welcome! Karibuni sana! Soyez les bienvenus! Murakaza neza, Murisanga!
- It is my honor and pleasure to welcome our Guest of Honor, I therefore kindly request our guest of Honor to come forward and address the assembly. Thank you and God may be with you all.