

SPEECH

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,
DURING THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY 10TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM, IN
ARUSHA, TANZANIA.**

THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2011

**MY BROTHER,
YOUR EXCELLENCY,
ALI HASSAN MWINYI,
PRIME MINISTER OF UGANDA,
MR. SPEAKER,
EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

**WHAT HAS BROUGHT US HERE TODAY IS A
MATTER THAT HAS BEEN CLOSE TO MY HEART
FOR THE BEST PART OF MY LIFE, AS A LEADER AND
CITIZEN OF EAST AFRICA.**

**THE MATTER IS THE INTEGRATION OF THE EAST
AFRICAN PEOPLES.**

**I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE IN THIS ASSEMBLY AND
TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT YESTERDAY, TODAY**

**AND TOMORROW OF THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY.**

**THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS HAD AN IDEA TO
INTEGRATE THE EAST AFRICAN STATES INTO A
COMMON MARKET.**

**THEIR AGENDA WAS TO ESTABLISH INTEGRATION
WITH A PROFIT MOTIVE.**

**THEIR MINDS WERE ON TRADE AND COMMODITY
MARKET.**

**BUT THE UNITY OF EAST AFRICA TOOK A MORE
DRAMATIC TURN WHEN WE WERE AGITATING FOR
INDEPENDENCE.**

**THIS CITY OF ARUSHA, MOSHI AND MBALE IN
UGANDA BECAME BASTIONS OF POLITICAL
ACTIVITY AS WE USED THEM TO HOLD OUR**

MEETINGS TO FURTHER OUR CAUSE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

AS ONE OF THE LEADERS WHO OPERATED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF PAN AFRICAN MOVEMENT FOR EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (PAFMECA), WE ANTICIPATED AN EAST AFRICA WHICH WAS NOT ONLY A MARKET PLACE BUT ALSO A FORMIDABLE POLITICAL UNION.

WE VISUALIZED OUR LAND AS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE FREE FROM COLONIAL RULE AND WHERE PROSPERITY THRIVED.

OUR VISION FOR A UNITED EAST AFRICA STAYED ALIVE INTO INDEPENDENCE AND BEYOND.

IT IS CLEAR TODAY THAT WHATEVER SLOWED DOWN OUR PACE OF INTEGRATION WERE MERELY

SHALLOW AND SUPERFICIAL SET-BACKS WHICH HAD NO ROOTS.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION ARE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND OUR DESIRE FOR UNITY.

EAST AFRICAN UNITY IS THEREFORE A PEOPLE DRIVEN INITIATIVE WHICH NO INDIVIDUAL IS CAPABLE OF DERAILING.

SOMETIMES WE FIND OURSELVES DRAGGING OUR FEET ON ISSUES LIKE A COMMON CURRENCY, OR A CUSTOMS UNION, BECAUSE WE ARE SCARED BY THE CHANGE.

LET ME ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA THAT THOSE WHO ADVOCATE UNITY ARE NOT SEEKING POWER, BUT SEEKING STRENGTH. UNITY BEGETS STRENGTH.

I ENJOY WATCHING THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL AND ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PROGRAMMES ARE THE WILD ANIMALS OF SERENGETI AND THE MARA, AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL.

THOSE WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THE STRENGTH OF UNITY BE THEY LIONS, BUFFALO, WILDEBEESTS, HYENA, BABOON OR CROCODILE, HAVE PROSPERED.

THEY ARE MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN THEY HUNT OR WHEN THEY ARE IN SELF DEFENCE AGAINST AN ATTACK.

THE MOST UNITED ANIMALS EAT BETTER MEALS, THEY ARE HEALTHIER, THEY HAVE TIME FOR PLAY OR LEISURE, THEY PROCREATE FASTER, THEY ARE MOST CONFIDENT AND ENJOY HIGHER

STANDARD OF LIVING THAN THE INDIVIDUALS WHO OPERATE ON THEIR OWN.

FOR OUR PEOPLE IN EAST AFRICA, UNITY SHOULD BE OUR SURVIVAL TACTIC BECAUSE IT GUARANTEES BETTER RESULTS.

THIS TIME WE HAVE A LESSON TO LEARN FROM OUR ANIMALS.

I URGE OUR GOVERNMENTS AND THE LEADERS TO HASTEN THE MOVE TOWARDS GREATER INTEGRATION BECAUSE WE HAVE REACHED A POINT OF NO RETURN.

IN FACT I FEAR THAT WHOEVER WANTS TO TURN BACK AT THIS POINT MIGHT TURN TO BE A MOUNTAIN OF SALT, LIKE THAT WIFE OF LOT.

INTEGRATION IS SOMETHING THAT IS NATURAL TO ALL OUR PEOPLE, BECAUSE WE HAVE A COMMON EXPERIENCE, COMMON CULTURE AND SHARE COMMON ASPIRATIONS.

EAST AFRICA HAS THE POTENTIAL OF GROWING BIGGER THAN WHAT IT IS AT PRESENT.

I CAN SEE LIGHT AT THE END OF THIS TUNNEL.

AFTER YEARS OF INSTABILITY, VIOLENCE AND UNCERTAINTY, THE TIDE SEEMS TO TURN FOR THE BETTER IN SOMALIA.

THE EVENTS IN RECENT WEEKS WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SOME GAINS AGAINST THE FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP PROVIDE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

THOSE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE REKINDLED HOPE THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SOMALIA MAY TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG US AS EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY.

I APPLAUD THE ENTRY OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI IN THE COMMUNITY, OUR NATURAL BROTHERS OF EAST AFRICA.

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE SHALL BE CELEBRATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN SUDAN, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF BLOODSHED AND SACRIFICE.

SOTHERN SUDANESE ARE ONE AND THE SAME PEOPLE AS EAST AFRICANS. THEY HAVE MORE TO SHARE WITH US THAN WITH ANYONE ELSE.

I EXPECT THAT THEIR DESIRE TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE ACCELERATED SO THAT WE

ALL COMBINE OUR ENERGIES TO SEEK PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLE.

WHEN I LOOK BACK AT HISTORY, I AM INSPIRED BY THOSE LEADERS WHO SAW BEYOND THEIR IMMEDIATE BORDERS AND SOUGHT TO UNITE PEOPLE.

BE THEY EUROPEANS LIKE BISMARCK, AMERICANS LIKE GEORGE WASHINGTON OR AFRICANS LIKE NKRUMAH, NYERERE OR JOMO KENYATTA. THE DREAM WHICH THESE LEADERS HAD FOR THEIR PEOPLE IS VERY REMARKABLE AND WORTH EMULATING.

SOME ATTAINED UNITY OF THEIR PEOPLE THROUGH BLOODY CONQUEST OR SUBJUGATION.

WE ARE LUCKY TODAY BECAUSE OUR UNITY IS SPONTANEOUS AND ARISES FROM THE WISHES OF OUR PEOPLE.

WE DO NOT NEED TO FIRE A GUN TO ACHIEVE WHAT THE PEOPLE CAN DELIVER BY SIMPLY EXPRESSING THEIR CONSENT FOR UNITY.

ANYTIME I TRAVEL IN THE KENYAN COUNTRYSIDE, UGANDAN COUNTRYSIDE, TANZANIAN COUNTRYSIDE, AS I OFTEN DO, I AM CAPTIVATED BY THE STRENGTH AVAILABLE FROM OUR PEOPLE.

I AM OFTEN FORCED TO REMARK RATHER LOUDLY, AND WONDER WHY, WE STILL WANT TO RESTRICT OURSELVES TO SMALLER COCOONS.

THE LAND WHICH GOD GAVE US IS VAST RICH AND FULL OF PROMISE.

SOMETIMES I SEE EVEN OUR GOVERNMENTS MAKE LEGISLATIONS THAT FOCUS ON THE SMALL THINGS LIKE, COUNTIES, REGIONS OR REGISTERING POLITICAL PARTIES CREATED ON THE BASIS OF TRIBE.

IN FACT THE BIGGEST WEAKNESS THAT AMUSES ME IN AFRICAN POLITICS IS THAT IF THE POLITICAL PARTY IS NOT MADE UP OF ONE TRIBE, IT IS A COMBINATION OF FELLOWS WHO THINK THEY ARE BIG TRIBES COLLUDING AGAINST THE SMALL TRIBES.

I URGE THAT WE FOCUS ON THE BIGGER THINGS IN LIFE RATHER THAN PRE-OCCUPYING OURSELVES WITH THE SMALL THINGS IN LIFE.

I SAY, “LOOK AT THE LARGE PICTURE. LEAVE ALONE THE SMALL PICTURE.”

I IMAGINE A YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN WHO HAS JUST GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUJUMBURA FINDING A JOB ADVERTISEMENT IN THE “DAILY NEWS” OF DAR-ES-SALAAM; APPLIES FOR IT, AND BECAUSE HE IS QUALIFIED, HE IS CALLED FOR AN INTERVIEW IN NAIROBI AND HE GOES TO WORK IN JUBA.

I SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR UNITY IN TERMS OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OPENING FOR OUR YOUNGER PEOPLE.

YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TODAY FROM THE TRIBES OR GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS THEY COME FROM, BECAUSE THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE.

IT IS FITTING FOR ALL THESE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE GIVEN A COUNTRY WITHOUT BORDERS FROM WHICH THEY CAN SEARCH AND

FIND EMPLOYMENT AND BUILD THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

DO NOT FEAR TO IMAGINE A NATION CALLED EAST AFRICA WITH A PARLIAMENT, JUDICIARY, PRESIDENT AND A COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

I THINK IT IS ONLY WHEN YOU START ENTERTAINING THE IDEA THAT YOU REALIZE IT IS POSSIBLE TO REACH THERE.

A COUNTRY STRETCHING FROM ABYEI IN SOUTHERN SUDAN, TO MTWARA IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA, CANNOT BE ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN A SUPER-POWER.

BEFORE I END MY REMARKS I WANT TO SALUTE ALL THE LEADERS WHO HAVE DRIVEN THE DREAM OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TO GREATER HEIGHTS.

THE FOUNDATION LAID BY THE FOUNDING FATHERS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY MOVING A STEP FORWARD, EACH DAY.

I AM HAPPY TO SEE MY COLLEAGUE, WHO WORKED HARD FOR EAST AFRICA, NOW RETIRED, HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN MWINYI TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AS HE IS TODAY.

AS FOR MY BROTHER PRESIDENT MUSEVENI, WHOM I HAVE NEVER SEEN TO BE TIRED OF TALKING OF EAST AFRICAN INTEGRATION, I WISH HIM SUCCESS AS HE KEEPS THE FIRE BURNING.

I THANK EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ALL THE MEMBERS AND THEIR ABLE SPEAKER, HONOURABLE ABDIRAHIN ABDI, FOR SEEING IT FIT TO CONVENE THIS FORUM TO PREPARE FOR YOUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

I CANNOT FAIL TO REGISTER MY GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE AND HIS

**GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUPPORT THEY GIVE TO
THE COMMUNITY WORK.**

**I GET ENCOURAGED ANY TIME THERE IS A
GATHERING OF EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY, THAT
WE ARE INCHING CLOSER TO REACHING THE
ULTIMATE GOAL OF A EAST AFRICAN
FEDERATION.**

**WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THIS DREAM MAY
EVENTUALLY YIELD THE UNITED STATES OF
AFRICA.**

**WITH THESE REMARKS, I THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR ATTENTION.**

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

Arusha, Tanzania,

30th June, 2011