



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

39th SITTING – FIRST MEETING – THIRD SESSION -FIFTH ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th October 2024

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 9.06 a.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable colleagues, good morning. I take this opportunity to welcome you to Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. We were last here in 2018; seven years have gone. The Assembly held its Sittings here in January 2018.

I once again wish to salute and thank His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, for accepting to grace and officially open our Sittings despite his busy schedule and for the fatherly words of wisdom delivered to us on Tuesday, 22 October 2024 at the State House in Entebbe.

I also wish, on your behalf, dear colleagues, to thank His Excellency for the historic souvenir that he gave to each one of us, of the EAC Political Federation during the first EAC. We look forward to his continued guidance as we carry out our legislative business.

I also thank our host, the Rt Hon. Annet Anita Among, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, and the Members and staff of the Parliament of Uganda, for the very warm reception that we have received since we arrived in this beautiful country. Thank you for granting us unconditional access, not only to the precincts of Parliament but also to the excellent facilities such as this Chamber,

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committee rooms and offices. Thank you very much for the lunch you have extended to the Members and staff throughout the period of our Sitting in Kampala. We cannot take it for granted.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Assembly to congratulate Rt Hon. Anita Among upon being elected as the Vice Chairperson of the Forum of African Speakers and President of legislators in the recently held in Accra, Ghana. Her election is a true testimony of Uganda's growing influence in African parliamentary diplomacy and the unity for sustainable development.

I also wish to commend you for being development-oriented and an educationist who has empowered Uganda and East Africa through skilling, provision of free health care services through the establishment of a health facility and promotion of the girl child, among others.

I further commend you for allowing your Parliament to be very active. Your Parliament is one of the most active and vibrant Parliaments in the region. Thank you for being a true leader.

To you, my colleagues of the EALA-Uganda Chapter, we are grateful for all the support and coordination to ensure that EALA holds its Sittings here in Uganda. Thank you for really being available to ensure that we are comfortable and that we feel at home in Uganda.

The approved programme for this meeting and the business to be transacted as approved by the Commission have been circulated to you all. I, therefore, implore all committees to ensure that they finalise all business before them and report to the plenary as per the programme.

I have undertaken, on behalf of the Assembly;

1. I visited the Federal Parliament of Somalia on 22nd July 2024. I was accompanied by Hon. Falhada Dekow, the Deputy Clerk, and a Senior Public Relations Officer.
2. I attended the 26th Uganda Annual Prayer Breakfast on 8th October 2024, at State House in Uganda, Entebbe, Uganda.
3. I also attended the 149th Assembly of the IPU, accompanied by Hon. George Odongo, from 13th – 18th October 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland.

On a sad note, one of our colleagues, Hon. Veronica Babirye Kadogo recently lost her dear sister. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Honourable members, we have a delegation from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), from South Africa, which is led by Hon. Miles Sampa. They are here on a benchmarking mission to EALA. Please, join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* We have -

1. Hon. Miles Sampa – Chairperson
2. Hon. Said Brahim Said – Deputy Chairperson
3. Hon. Felix Mpozeri
4. Hon. Ambassador Emmanuel Lowila
5. Hon. Ng'wasi Kamani
6. Hon. Nicaise Kotchami Fagnon
7. Hon. Maboyketlo Maboyketlo
8. Hon. Prof. Muhammad Anadif Yusuf
9. Hon. Nsamba Patrick Oshabe

Hon. Ng'wasi Kamani is from Tanzania, Hon. Sampa is from Zambia, Hon. Brahim Said is from Malawi, Felix is from Burundi, Emmanuel Lowila is from Nigeria, and we have Hon. Nicaise Kotchami Fagnon from Benin.

Then we have the staff, Dr Ndindi Abano, Mr Obiwe Omuyegi, Mrs Beza Semuguruka, Hategeka Ernest, Martin Kadu, Oswald Ndolerine, Moses Karuhanga, Ibrahim Sali, and Ayub Twahir. Please, let us welcome them again. *(Applause)* Now we can proceed.

LAYING OF PAPERS

The Speaker: Hon. George Odongo?

9.18

Mr George Odongo (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the address of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, on the rationale vision and guidance on the EAC integration, the East African Legislative Assembly, on Tuesday, 22 October 2022. I beg to lay.

The Speaker: I am informed that our honourable ministers are not here to lay the papers. Let us proceed to the next. Hon. Sankok.

9.20

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Accounts on the Oversight of the Inter-University Council of East Africa and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation. I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, I suspend this Sitting. It is not for 10 minutes or more. It is only for 2 or 3 minutes. It is because we have a guest and I will just go and pick her and bring her here. She is a special one. You have guessed that she is the Rt Hon. Anita Among. So I suspend for five minutes. Do not leave the Chamber; I am coming back

(The Assembly was suspended at 9.22 a.m.)

(Upon resumption at 9.24 a.m., the Speaker, Mr Joseph Ntakirutimana, presiding)

PROCLAMATION BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker: You can sit. Honourable members, amidst us today is the Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and our host. *(Applause)*

I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, invited the Rt Hon. Speaker, Anita Annet Among, to address the Assembly.

I now proceed to make the following proclamation to welcome her presence in the Assembly.

“WHEREAS Article 54, Item 1 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly may invite any person to attend the Assembly;

NOTWITHSTANDING THAT he or she is not a member of the Assembly, if, in his or her opinion, the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable;

AND WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance of and the presence in the Assembly and the Speaker of Parliament of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is with great pleasure and honour on your behalf, honourable members, to welcome the Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda in this Assembly. Given under my hand this Tuesday, the 29th day of October 2024.”

ADDRESS BY RT HON. ANITA ANNET AMONG, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA PRECEDED BY WELCOME REMARKS BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

9.27

Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among (The Speaker, Parliament of Uganda): The Rt Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, and our visitors in the VIP gallery, I would like to welcome all of you to Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. *(Applause)* I would also like to welcome you to the Parliament of Uganda; a people-centred Parliament with 556 Members.

I would like to welcome you to this official opening of the EALA plenary Sitting that marks the First Meeting of the Third Session of the 5th Assembly. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

On behalf of the Members of Parliament of Uganda, we heartily wish you good deliberations and we welcome you to this Parliament. This is our Chamber which is now your Chamber, that we have given to you. *(Applause)*

First, permit me to salute His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda for being at the forefront of promoting the East African Legislative Assembly, the East African Community and the integration agenda. We would like to congratulate him and thank him. His unwavering support of EALA since its inception in 2001 is a testimony of the confidence that he has in the organ and the institution of the East African Community. *(Applause)*

Dear Members of EALA, your presence here reflects the unity that binds us together, with aspirations of the states and the citizenry that form the East African Community.

Today, you are responding to the clarion call of our forefathers to further the struggle for attainment of the East African integration with the pillars of the customs union, monetary union, common market and political federation. That is what we are doing and we are doing so as per our forefathers, the Nyerere's of those days.

Challenges notwithstanding, the East African Community has had significant achievements since its establishment. We now have the common market protocol, which has facilitated the movement of goods and services. We now have 13 one-stop border centres and the East African passports that we use.

These successes are a result of the efforts of the regional Assembly and enacting the progressive laws that ease cross-border trade and movement. We would like to thank EALA for that. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, the idea behind the common market protocol was created as a single market for member state countries to ensure that there is free movement of goods, services and people, to eliminate the tariffs and non-tariff barriers. However, the protocol is not being respected by some member states. If we have agreed to use a machine-readable national ID to cross borders, why should that be a problem? We should respect what we decide as institutions for the good of our countries.

While substantive procedural and institutional progress has been made towards the realisation of each of the pillars, a lot more effort needs to be put into eliminating the barriers and ensuring that we have a united community.

I, therefore, want to re-echo my call for unity and cohesion among partner states. If we stand together as a united East Africa, then we shall overcome our regional problems. Unity will unlock our potential to find local solutions for our shared problems. Where there are disagreements, let us not shy away from addressing them because peace and security among member states is a catalyst for economic prosperity and political federation.

Political wars have ripped nations. Such wars should not have a place in East Africa, especially among the East African States. We must embrace peace and have unity as a community for a prosperous East African Community.

Mr Speaker, we are looking forward to the legislative business of this Sitting and I am already excited having seen the strategic Bills that this Assembly will pass during this Sitting in Kampala – it will be the Kampala Declaration *(Applause)* – such as the Standardisation Bill, the Accreditation and Conformity Assessment Bill, the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Bill among others. However, to create meaningful legislation, it is imperative that Member States domesticate these laws once passed. *(Applause)* They should not only be passed here and remain here. Each country must take the law and domesticate it in their different countries. That should be done by the ministers that represent East Africa.

The Parliament of Uganda assures you of our unwavering support towards the efforts of transforming the East African Community into a stable, competitive and sustainable region.

Mr Speaker and Members, this is not my day and I must say I am sorry for interfering with the session. It is your day to fulfil your constitutional mandate. With those few words, once more, thank you for coming to Uganda.

Secondly, I want to make a correction that my name is not “Amongin”. My name is Among without “ing”. The Member you have is “Amongin”. I am Among - AAA. I bring you greetings from Accra, where I was voted in as the vice chairperson –*(Applause)*- of the African Union Speakers. As the African Union or Africa, we are determined to have one Africa, one destiny. *(Applause)*

Our problems of Africa must be solved locally in Africa. They will not be solved by other people. Just like the East African problems must be solved locally by the East African Community, it should not get out of East Africa. *(Applause)*

With those few words, Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this chance to say a word to the honourable members and to also tell the honourable members that while in Uganda, feel at home. *(Applause)* This is your home. Uganda has the most loving people on the continent and I believe they will treat you the best way. You may not even want to go back. *(Laughter)* I wish you fruitful deliberations. I say all this for God and my country. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker. When we conceived this idea of having our sitting in Uganda, we received overwhelming support from the leadership of the Parliament of Uganda, who graciously accepted to share with us the parliamentary facilities with all the courtesies that we have enjoyed since our arrival.

Madam Speaker, we recognise your Parliament as one of the most active and vibrant in the region. Congratulations on that. *(Applause)* Before you came, we also talked about your prize. Being elected as the Vice Chairperson of the Forum of African Speakers and President of Legislators recently in Accra, Ghana; a recognition that your leadership from East Africa is recognised by the whole of Africa. You are not the only one; we in East Africa are happy and proud of women's leadership. You are the Speaker of Uganda and your Parliament is performing.

We also have the Speaker of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Tulia Ackson, who is not only doing well in Tanzania but is leading the world in the IPU. *(Applause)* We also have the Speaker of South Sudan – is it the Lower House? It is the National Assembly - and she is an East African woman and she is doing well. *(Applause)*

Recently in Rwanda, a woman was elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly. We East Africans recognise your leadership. Above all of you, we have a Head of State; the President of the United Republic of Tanzania is a woman. *(Applause)* We are inspiring Africa.

Madam Speaker, we also recognise how you are fully involved in education and empowering Ugandans and East Africans through skilling. Your House is the one which has free health care services and we in Arusha and EALA wish to come and learn from you because we need to implement these facilities. We know that you are promoting the health and facilities of the girl-child and children, among others.

With all this, Madam Speaker, we thank you again. We thank your team. We thank your House for being with us and welcoming us and we feel at home. Uganda is like Arusha. My Members have been integrating since they got here and will not stop saying “thank you”. Thank you, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

With this, honourable members, let us suspend again for five minutes. We have to get a souvenir photo with the Rt Hon. Speaker outside. The Clerk will guide us; he will help us. We would like to take it immediately, then we come back to the Chamber to resume our business. Thank you. You have the Floor.

9.45

Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among (The Speaker, Parliament of Uganda): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I had forgotten to tell you that the vision of the East African Community is to widen, tighten and deepen. So, while in Uganda, you must deepen, tighten and widen. *(Applause)*

As legislators of the East African Community, we always have a principle that you must leave the community better than the way you got it. You must leave a legacy and say, “While we were in the East African Legislative Assembly, this is what we did and this is what is helping this nation or the Community.

So, I urge the Members and you, Mr Speaker, to leave a legacy in EALA. I can proudly tell you that even if I left the Parliament of Uganda tomorrow, I would have left a legacy –*(Applause)*– which cannot be rubbed from the books of the history of Uganda.

I wish you all a nice time as you widen, deepen and tighten. *(Laughter)*

(The Assembly was suspended at 9.46 a.m.)

(Upon resumption at 9.55 a.m., the Speaker, Mr Joseph Ntakirutimana, presiding)

The Speaker: House resumes; you can sit.

MOTION ON THE ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY YOWERI MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE RATIONALE, VISION AND GUIDANCE ON THE EAC INTEGRATION TO THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY, 22ND OCTOBER 2024

The Speaker: Honourable members, before I call the mover of the motion, something wrong happened and you did not even remind me about that. But we are human. I recognised the Speakers and Head of State, but our Secretary-General is here. *(Applause)* I apologise for this; we are human.

You are the first female to be an SG in history and you will remain the number one female SG in East Africa. *(Applause)* You are doing well. We are working together and collaborating well; we recognise it. So, I am sorry; I apologise. *(Applause)*

With this, let us proceed. Hon. George Odongo?

9.57

Mr George Odongo (Uganda): Mr Speaker and honourable colleagues, motion for a Resolution of the Assembly to appreciate the address of His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, on the rationale, vision and guidance regarding the EAC integration during his address to the East African Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 22nd October 2024, moved under Article 11(1), 49 and 59(1) of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Move your motion. Do you have seconders? The whole House. You can proceed.

Mr Odongo: “*WHEREAS the East African Legislative Assembly is holding its First Meeting of the Third Session of the Fifth Assembly from 21st October to 12th November, 2024, in the Republic of Uganda, Kampala;*

AND WHEREAS His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and member of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, graciously agreed to officially open the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Fifth Assembly and addressed the Assembly during a special sitting of the Assembly, held in the State House in Entebbe, Uganda on 22 October 2024;

AND RECOGNISING that the roles of members of the Summit include providing impetus, guidance and directions to the Community;

AND GRATEFUL to His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the clarity of vision and guidance on the optimal policies, strategies and frameworks required to drive the vision for a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa, which was contained in the address of the President of the Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Assembly that the Assembly appreciates the address of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda on the rationale, vision and guidance regarding the EAC integration during his address to the East African Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 22nd October 2024 at the State House in Entebbe, Uganda.”

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Justify your motion.

Mr Odongo: Mr Speaker, since the '60s, President Museveni has been at the forefront of the struggle for African liberation. He has done this with passion and when he speaks, he speaks from a point of knowledge, experience and action. And indeed, on the 22nd of October this year, this Assembly benefited from his very deep insights on the three major drivers of African integration. Mr Speaker, President Museveni is our institutional memory; he is our black box on matters of EAC.

In 1967, when this Community collapsed, there was tension within the Summit. We had Idi Amin here in Uganda, Nyerere in Tanzania and we also had Kenyatta in Kenya, and this tension was ideological. The tension intensified and eventually led to the collapse of the East African Community.

It is, therefore, gratifying that after several years - and indeed, by the way, in November this year, we will be celebrating 25 years of the new EAC. In 1999, President Museveni, President Mkapa and President Moi revived the East African Community under the current EAC Treaty.

From the address of the President, he was very clear. He said Africa's struggle – and indeed that of East Africa - is a struggle that should be driven by a sense of strategic security. He underscored the need for the East African Community to invest extensively in our capacity to secure our people from global pressures.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 symbolically marked the end of the Cold War, but it also ushered in great power competition. And with great power competition came a lot of pressure because the global powers represented here by China in the East and America in the West are grappling to build power through geopolitical influences. So, if the EAC does not read and smell the coffee, we are in trouble.

This is the kind of information that the President was giving the Assembly; that we need to build the necessary sophistication, the necessary software and the necessary hardware to be able to build

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capacity to sustain our growth, protect our culture, protect our resources and to make sure that we invest these resources responsibly for our generations.

Mr Speaker, His Excellency the President also told us about the need for us to drive prosperity. Writing in the *Financial Times*, Wolf, a British journalist once said that if 1.4 billion Chinese decide to prosper, nobody is going to stop them and China will be unstoppable.

Indeed, if the 350 million East Africans decided to embrace prosperity and invested in ensuring that we deepen our trade relations, deepen our social relations, that we prosper, the East African Community and indeed Africa will be unstoppable.

Prosperity is the common thread that should put our people together as Africa and as an Assembly, we should be the facilitators and enablers, creating the necessary environment for East Africans to deepen their trade and social relations as a key driver of prosperity, democracy and human rights. Rt Hon. Speaker, there is no peace, security or trade if we do not build a strong democracy in Africa and in East Africa. Good governance is the software that enables trade and social integration.

Our democracy index is not very good but we are building it. So, we must jealously build the pillars of good governance because this is the only insurance that we have to sustain peace and trade between us, to deepen our social relations, empower our people, and invest in necessary social infrastructure like health education for our people.

The President's emphasis is basically to say that the future is in our hands, as East African Community and as Africa. We should not look outside for people to come and give us solutions. The solutions have got to be from within and that takes leadership. The Assembly has got to invest in courage to make decisions. However difficult those decisions may be, as long as those decisions can expand the boundaries of freedom, the boundaries of choice, the boundaries of trade, and can deepen our political and social relations - The baton has been given to us, as an Assembly, and each one of us must take this responsibility very seriously.

President Museveni's generation has made their mark. It is time therefore to make sure that we build on that to inspire the generations that come but most importantly, that when we have the opportunity as we do right now, we should, at every one point, be looking at ourselves so that we mirror each other and our Community and that we legislate with our people in our minds. Thank you so much, I beg to move, Rt Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, I now propose the motion that this Assembly do resolve to record its comments to appreciate the address of his Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda on the rationale, vision and guidance regarding the East African Community integration during his address to this East African Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 22 October 2024. Debate is open.

Clerk, give the list. The list given to me has Hon. Sankok, Hon. Kadogo, Hon. Dr Mathias. Hon. Kanini, Hon. Gatpan, Hon. Siranda, Hon. Caroline, Hon. Francine, Hon. Kering, Hon. Mugenyi, Hon. Rose, Hon. Fatuma, Hon. Maghembe. Let us start with hon. Sankok. You have the floor.

10.13

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker – (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Procedure.

Ms Amongin: Rt Hon. Speaker, I was in this House for the last 10 years and it is nice to get back here. It is a little bit different.

Rt Hon. Speaker, my procedural issue is in – I think you allowed the Clerk to choose the people who will debate on this motion and he followed the arrow. I happen to sit on this row and it is just procedural that the Clerk was able to jump my name. I would like to raise a procedural issue that my name be included in the debate of the President's speech. Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Amongin. You will be –

Mr Sankok: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important motion on the speech of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the father figure of the East African Community and a man that we adore.

Mr Speaker, listening to the President in the State House in Entebbe, I realised that knowledge comes with age. He had no written speech but whatever he spoke was on his fingertips and he was oozing with knowledge.

Mr Speaker, I grasped a few points and one of them is that we were listening to a Pan-Africanist who believes in the unity of Africa in the Nyerere line of thought.

After independence, there was a call for the United States of Africa but there were two lines of thought. One line of thought was that of Julius Nyerere which was for us to have economic regional building blocks that will eventually form the building blocks of the United States of Africa. The other line of thought was that of Kwame Nkrumah who wanted Africa to unite at a go and have a treaty of 54 states.

Mr Speaker, our President, listening to him, was actually of the view that we have stronger economic blocs, which currently we have; regional economic blocs like EAC. EAC has done its part and it is now for us to keep the wheel moving and unite Africa into the United States of Africa, having EAC as one of the building blocks.

Mr Speaker, again from the speech of the President, I realised that he does not only have the institutional memory but he wants our people to unite and be one and eliminate the colonial boundaries.

He also wanted all the EAC Partner States to obey the Treaty and to keep up to speed with the obligations that are required for one to be a member of the East African Community which is not compulsory but voluntary and that one joins voluntarily.

Mr Speaker, I was very happy when I heard the President saying that he is a hard worker and not a parasite. The word “parasite” was not a bad one, especially if we have to honour our obligation of being part of the East African Community.

Lastly, the President insisted on the Community opening trade so that our people can move freely, can trade freely and tap into the potential that we have as an East African Community.

East African Community has 6500 kilometres of coastline and 38 freshwater lakes. Unfortunately, those water lakes are being used to wash cars instead of using them for transport, tourism, agriculture and also for fishing.

Mr Speaker, he also wants us to take the opportunity of having the two largest water towers in Africa; the Congo belt and the Mau belt.

We wish that we could listen to the President if he could give us a half-an-hour session every year so that we can learn from him and so that we can be like him because, to us, he is our father figure of the East African Community.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the President, our President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni – he is our father figure and we will adopt him as the father figure of the East African Community economic bloc. I beg to support, thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Sankok. Honourable members, can you please remember that you have five minutes maximum?

10.19

Ms Veronica Kadogo (Uganda): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to debate on the President’s address.

First of all, I want to start by thanking the President for his continued support for the EAC. He has supported the EAC and even when the EAC collapsed in 1967, he worked together with his counterparts to make sure that the EAC was restored. He did not only do this but he has worked hard to make sure that he widens the EAC from the initial three countries to the eight countries.

He has also worked to make sure that EAC is not only widened but it is also deepened. He has done that ably by making sure that he assents to the Bills that we pass in the East African Legislative Assembly and also making sure that those laws that we pass at the regional Parliament are implemented in our countries.

President Museveni, in his address, emphasised market integration. He said that market integration is very important for the development of the countries in East Africa and he gave an example that we have excess products in our countries which need market. For example, in Uganda, we are producing a lot of milk, maize and sugar which cannot only be consumed in Uganda but by a bigger market.

He also emphasised trade within East Africa to foster development. He encouraged the East African countries to trade within the East African territory.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate the East African Legislative Assembly, headed by the Speaker, the Council of Ministers and the honourable Members of Parliament for bringing the EALA sitting to Uganda. It has created a lot of awareness and I think this will contribute a lot towards the development of Uganda and East Africa at large. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Kadogo.

10.23

Dr Amb. Mathias Haberamungu (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to that of our colleagues.

The speech of His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is a speech full of wisdom. He took us on board and really asked us, as Parliamentarians from the East African Community, to think outside the box. We have to be the driving machines of our Community and we have to be united as one people, one nation, one East Africa.

Mr Speaker, without talking too much time, I salute the speech of His Excellency President Museveni and ask that all of us be brought on board to work together for the good destiny of this Community and our continent at large. Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Mathias.

10.25

Mr Kanini Kega (Kenya): Thank you so much, Rt Hon. Speaker. I would like to add my voice in appreciating the speech by His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, all of us who were there cannot help but appreciate the wise counsel that we got from His Excellency the President. He took us down memory lane, reminding us that even when some of us were not born in 1967, our forefathers, led by the three founding fathers, *Mzee* Kenyatta, *Mzee* Julius Nyerere and Milton Obote, came up with the East African Community to bring the communities together and they had clarity of mind as to where they wanted to take the Community.

Unfortunately, 10 years down the lane, the Community collapsed for various reasons and each country will blame the other. But, we must thank the team that came after: His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi and His Excellency Mkapa, the then President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In the year 2000, looking back and seeing the vision that the forefathers had, they decided to revive the East African Community and not just revive it as the three countries but they expanded and now we are eight countries. We keep on expanding.

Why do we come together? How do we integrate? You integrate through trade and I remember His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni broke it down so that we can understand that in the Banyankole tribe that produces milk and bananas, you cannot trade within yourselves because your neighbour is also producing the same. But when you go to the bigger aspect of Uganda, you can get your bananas and sell them to other people who are not growing bananas.

That is the kind of aspect that we need to see in East Africa, that we have products - In some areas of our country, we usually produce a lot of milk and since we are not trading with the other parts of the country, we have situations where you are giving milk even to the dogs whereas that product can be traded with your neighbour. That is what the President was telling us; that we need to trade with each other and you cannot integrate without trading. The first aspect of integration is trade.

The second one, Mr Speaker, as I conclude, is also through intermarriage. Mr Speaker, on Sunday, and I am happy that you were there, Mr Speaker. Together with other colleagues, we were invited to a very unique wedding between a Ugandan and a Rwandan. That is cultural integration and you could clearly see the mixing of the cultures. We spent the whole day and it was colourful and awesome. That is what we need to do to take the Community forward.

With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, I want to say that we are not yet there. Our forefathers did their part, our current leaders are doing their part and the legislative Arm will also do its part to make sure that the four pillars are achieved.

We have done two - There are of course challenges of Non-Tariff Barriers and all that but we will make sure that the Monetary Union is achieved within our regime so that we are able to get the Political Federation as we move forward.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit, thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanini Kega.

10.29

Mr Gideon Gatpan (Sudan): Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Let me add my voice to that of colleagues appreciating the speech from our father, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

This was my second time having the privilege to listen to his speech and during these two speeches that I have had an opportunity to attend, I have been asking myself and reflecting about two things. One is a practical example that His Excellency the President has always mentioned about a community in East Africa called Banyankole. He represents our vision with that example.

If you can produce something in quantities that you cannot sell, it means that you need to look for a partner in trade. Based on this example, a community is not only market-driven or people-centred but according to our President Kaguta Museveni, it is about prosperity-oriented integration. We must be a prosperity-oriented society.

The other aspect that I learnt from the lecture and that is very important to East Africa is the emphasis that he made on our unity. That our integration as East Africans or Africans is not a matter of emotions. It is a matter of life and death. How does it become a matter of life and death? We are the legislators in East Africa and we have a responsibility to sensitise our Community about the benefits of our region. We must focus on changing perceptions and mindsets to create the unity that we want as East Africans.

Rt Hon. Speaker and colleagues, President Museveni also emphasised that a single African family must be a wealth-creating unit in our society. An individual must focus on wealth creation. How do we do that? We need to unite, focus and appreciate our vision.

Rt Hon. Speaker, in all this, His Excellency the President is reminding us of our journey and that is my second reflection in terms of examples. When I was here in 2018, I received a big newspaper from His Excellency the President. All of us were given that newspaper and I kept mine. Recently, I also got my picture that has a copy of the same newspaper that reminds us about our journey; where did we come from?

Without appreciating where you came from, you cannot be able to define your future. That is another point that I have taken from His Excellency's address which is very important.

Rt Hon. Speaker, we should not be bogged down by our sovereignties. This notion of sovereignty is challenging our integration agenda. One of the famous writers, an American diplomat called Stephen Kressner called domestic sovereignty, where you have authority and control, promoting protectionism. We have to open up to appreciate the aspect of our international legal sovereignty and interdependence. As a region, we should emphasise appreciating ourselves as one people with our destiny.

Rt Hon. Speaker, as I wind up, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has successfully fought the politics of identity. I think this is something that as East Africans, we have to appreciate. That politics of identity, be it from tribe or partisan participation must be fought. This has successfully been done by His Excellency the President. We cannot go anywhere minus our unity as people of East Africa and as Africans.

Mr Speaker, together with my colleagues, I think it is high time we spoke as East Africans to reach out to one another and appreciate our strengths be they economic, social or cultural strengths. I beg to submit. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, we have this timer. Clerk, how does it work? Please, try to look at it and get your five minutes. You know how it works, I know.

10.36

Dr Gerald Siranda (Uganda): My other name is Lucas, so many things always start with me. *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: You have the Floor.

Dr Siranda: Very appreciative. Mr Speaker, first, I appreciate you and the entire leadership for thinking that this is very special for us to have this very special session to appreciate the Head of State; a summit member.

I join my colleagues on onset to support the motion by the Hon. George Stephen Odongo. The speech by the President of the Republic of Uganda was more of wisdom. I remember I did not see him with the written notes but I saw the leader that was speaking for integration because he is an anchor-man for East African integration.

Mr Speaker, I want to say a few things. First, the President said that the question of strategic security is very important for this region. We can create, speak about the market and love the East African Community but the question of developing strategic security is very important for our people to benefit from the market. I picked that from the President and I believe that it is very important that we love- first of all, to have security we must love.

He said we must love Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Once we love ourselves, then we create strategic security for our people.

The President said, “*Hii kazi siyo ya wabunge tu*” - this job is not only for Members of Parliament and those in the Secretariat or those in whatever departments but this is work which is life and survival.

We as Members of Parliament are doing this work not because it is for survival or work but because we are trying to contribute to the survival of the East African Community. The President emphasised that we do not only look at this as a job but it is our responsibility to make sure that we work and make a contribution for the East Africans.

Mr Speaker, the President emphasised on the question of producing services for the East Africans. It is imperative for us as leaders of this community that we mobilise people to produce services and goods so that they can benefit from the market that the East African Community has produced.

The President emphasised that we support the free continental trade area but also said that despite that, we must work on a political federation. He said, “We are the same as East Africans.” He sampled by using the Hon. Kachwamba and using all of us in terms of the languages and said that building our political federation would give us a way to build a united army, united defence, services and programs but also developing strategy in terms of Information Technology (IT) and going to the moon so that people are not above us on the moon, the Americans, but we also design what is on the moon for us to build for the people.

Finally, the President emphasised the need for continuous engagement and I think it is high time that we had the question on the Bill on conflict resolution and mediation in the region; the region is torn apart. The spirit into which the President is speaking calls upon the region to design strategies for mediating and engagement so that a people that we serve benefit from the common market.

It is very important that when we have all these countries together, our people benefit as well as the businesses. I believe that we will continue to engage and the President pledged and promised that there will be another engagement on a full day. Maybe we will have him enough for us to continue engaging and learning that he has wisdom for this nation.

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I continue to believe that President Museveni entirely dreams, sleeps and walks the East African integration. I beg to submit and support the motion. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you for supporting the motion. Now, Hon. Caroline-

10.41

Ms Caroline Kayonga (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to appreciate the speech by His Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to this Assembly on the 22nd of this month- I have lost my voice because of the air conditioner (AC).

His Excellency reminded us as our colleagues have already said that integration is a matter of life and death and he emphasised the three historical missions that we have. I will talk about one, strategic security but before that, I would like to state that as Hon. Kanini said, he took me and I think all of us down memory lane and for me, it was emotional.

When I looked at the three presidents, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Obote and Kenyatta, I looked at the dream that they had announced at that time in the 60s, a political federation, which never happened. It was extremely emotional.

Several years later, we are here standing on the shoulders of the giants one of whom is His Excellency President Kaguta Museveni who dreamed and brought this dream into existence and we are here; it is our mission to help it happen.

He reminded us that, again, it is a matter of life and death and not- whatever we are doing, we should keep that in our minds. When he took us down memory lane, I just recalled the way he described how so many things are happening when we are seated here.

When Vasco da Gama went around the Cape of Good Hope- was it in 1498- and then moved to the East African coast, nobody was aware that 400 years later something would happen. That was actually- I do not know how I can describe it. I was just getting goose-pimples because a lot happens and we do not even know. Even today we do not know what is happening when people are going to the moon.

The other emotional thing was that there are so many similarities and compatibility that we have. When he spoke the different languages and spoke to the different Members of Parliament, we found that some words were similar amongst all of us. It reminded us to build on what is- let us start from where we have the commonalities and similarities and build from there.

Yes, we are taking baby steps from the customs union, the common market, the monetary union- a few steps and the Bills that we have talked about and the institutions that are in place. The elements of the political federation are there too. We have the One East African passport, Identity Cards (IDs) that are being used and the single tourism visas for the – which is a step in the right direction.

My final comment and where I am going to stress is on the area of strategic security especially when we look at the challenges that we are facing today. I always- my passion, as you always know, is the common challenges that we are faced with; challenges like climate change, that we, together, have to deal with.

We share borders and natural resources and if we start from the areas where clearly we have to work together, I think we have done so- then we will slowly get to that dream that was announced in the 60s but did not happen.

Right now, we have a number of Bills as we mentioned. We had an awakening moment when we did not know that close to us, there were issues to do with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Recently we were enlightened, it was scary but also emotional and the fact that we can do something about it, we hope that- I urge the House to support that Bill and I believe we will overwhelmingly support it.

We are also going to bring- and I think Hon. Jackie will talk about it- we will bring the Climate Change Bill and we urge the House to support it. We are talking about plastic pollution; we have a number of- *(Member timed out.)*

The Speaker: That is- you are not talking about our motion and our milk has gone down; the five minutes. Thank you. Now we give the Floor to Hon. Francine.

10.47

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I also stand to thank His Excellency Yoweri Museveni for a speech full of wisdom that he gave to us as Members of Parliament and I appreciate his unwavering support of the integration agenda.

I also support and thank the effort that he put together with the President of Tanzania at that time and the President of Kenya to revamp the East African Community 25 years back. His dream is to see this Community become a political federation and this puts us at a task as Members of Parliament for this time, the Fifth East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), to see what we have to do to make his dream a reality.

We are here as Members to do legislation, oversight and representation; throughout our mandate- I am sure especially in the pillar regarding prosperity, as he emphasised, we are here now to put together our hands to see how we can remove the non-tariff barriers which are always hindering the free movement of people in this Community so that we ease the business in our Community.

I think and see that the East African Legislative Assembly has all the tools around us to make his dream a reality and I urge all our organs to put together our hands so that we make it; it is really possible. I stand to support the motion of Hon. Odongo. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Francine. Next on the Floor is Hon. Kering.

10.49

Ms Zipporah Kering (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support this motion of the speech of our great father, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

It was an opportunity to listen to a man who oozed wisdom and gave us a lot of knowledge. I counted myself lucky to have sat in that congregation and to listen to him. Among the things that he spoke about in his speech and focused on were actually about prosperity, neighbourhood and security.

As he spoke about the way he made other people rich, he even told us categorically how he bought the milk of the Kenya Co-operative Creameries 2000 Ltd (KCC) from Kenya and made Kenyans

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rich. We congratulate him and say thank you because maybe we are where we are economically because of him buying our milk.

He also talked about the meat that he bought from the United Republic of Tanzania and I also want to believe the economy of Tanzania right now is where it is because he decided to buy their meat. This tells us that H.E Yoweri Museveni already knew the importance of the neighbourhood and the Community.

I thank the President of Uganda; for the few days I have been here, I have been able to meet some of the Members of Parliament among whom I met four Members of Parliament from my community, the Kalenjin and the Sabin from the Sebei area. That tells us that he walks his talk.

We also have the Kalenjin called Murle from the Republic of South Sudan; we are yet to go there to find out whether they are also integrated into the Government or they are just there as a group but what he actually insisted on is security; our security as a Community.

When he talked about political federation and the way we look at the protocols, it looks like the political federation would have come first because it would mean one market, one air force, and one army. That would bring us together.

As I finish, I would urge this assembly through the Committee on Regional Integration to fast-track the political federation protocol so that we bring it forward and make it a reality in this Fifth EALA. I beg to submit and support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Zipporah. I will give the Floor to Hon. Mugenyi.

10.53

Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join colleagues who have spoken ahead of me to thank, first of all, you for creating this opportunity.

Secondly, the Hon. Odongo, for bringing up this motion. I proudly stand up to thank my President because I know that on the issues of the East African Community, he speaks from his heart; he really means it. *(Applause)*

If people could be as patriotic about this Community as he is- even half of the population of East Africa, if only we could be as patriotic, you can call it Pan-Africanism, but I think for East Africa, the closeness that we have, the commonalities, I would rather prefer to use the word patriotism rather than Pan-Africanism.

President Museveni started his journey as a Pan-Africanist when he was a young man. I remember the first time I saw him, I was in primary school and he was a student at Dar es Salaam University.

With a few of his colleagues- I remember three young men coming to our village, gathering people, talking to them and teaching them issues of strategic survival and security. Since that time, he has never stopped.

I believe he started when he was a secondary school student. So, he really means what he talks about because, for those of us who live in Uganda, we have heard him. He can never miss an opportunity at any gathering to talk about the importance of the East African Community, how we are one people and how we need each other for survival and prosperity but also for strategic security for all of us.

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You know how much he has been involved in the pacification of the different areas of our region; he means it and can commit anything to see an African. Uganda is a home for all Africans; it is open, not just refugees, by the way. Refugees are counted but Africans from all over are here.

We have communities of Africans. You go around, you will find the Eritreans, Somalis, Ethiopians- I can go on and on; they are here. Some of them are political refugees or political-people looking for prosperity indeed and they are free as long as they are Africans.

In fact, if anyone bothers to say why is so and so here or this community is here, sometimes we, as Ugandans, get angry when our goods are blocked and he stops us from reiterating. I think you heard him talking about Tanzanian rice. I think that comes from the fact that Tanzania was blocking our sugar and so Ugandans said, we also need to block something that Tanzania brings to Uganda.

That happens also with Kenya, Rwanda and across all our borders but we can never retaliate because our *Mzee* says, “Do not do it; you are killing our African dream” and “You are ideologically backward.” That is his very favourite word; that is ideological backwardness.

Mr Speaker, what I listened to during the address is his usual passion. I am proud that those of us who have been listening to him for a long time, are Pan-Africanists. He is a student of President Nyerere and he even said it in that speech. He has also created and converted so many students and people around this continent. I hope you (*Member timed out.*) (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mary Mugenyi. Now we have Hon. Rose.

10.58

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I welcome you to Uganda. As emphasised by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, please take time to widen, deepen and- all those things. (*Laughter*) All those- we have to do it.

I stand in support of the motion as presented by Hon. Odongo and my points are just a few. I thank His Excellency the President. Whenever we are here, he is here to welcome us and to give us some bit of his mind, the history of this integration and why we must, as East Africans, make sure we achieve the political federation.

He summarised his points in just three historical missions. Historical because he has been in it right from when he was a student and up to now as a head of State. The first mission was prosperity, and he asked where prosperity comes from. Therefore, integration is a matter of survival; life and death. That is it.

Strategic mission number two was strategic security. The need for political federation as a centre of gravity for East Africans.

Three, brotherhood, *undugu*. He said we need brotherhood to achieve historical mission one, prosperity, and two, strategic security. As simple as that. That is how he summarised his address to us.

I remember him on several occasions- in fact; I want to give an example. One time we had an issue with one of our neighbours. As the Commander-In-Chief, he told his soldiers, “Don't shoot.” The

reason was simple; when you shoot, you will shoot your brother across. He said you might shoot your brother across and indeed, that is true.

You cannot shoot across to Kenya because we are one. We have brothers there; the Iteso and Luo are in Kenya. We are here in Uganda, the Luo, Iteso and all those other tribes like Hon. Kering was saying here. We cannot shoot across South Sudan because we have the Toposa who are part of Atekel. We have the Luo and Kakwa here in Uganda; we are one. Why shoot across the border?

All the same to Rwanda and Congo; we are one. So, he has demonstrated that we cannot fight. There should be no wars between East Africans because we are one. We are just one people. So, as legislators, what do we do?

These three historical missions have been summarised into four pillars of integration. The customs union, common market, monetary union and ultimately the political federation. That is exactly what he explained. As legislators, we have a duty to make sure all these pillars are achieved during our time as legislators of the East African Community.

Once more, I thank His Excellency the President for his precise address to us, emphasising the need for political integration as survival. Thank you, Mr Speaker. And once more, welcome to Uganda (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you. I now give the Floor to Hon. Fatuma.

10.03

Amb. Fatuma Ndangiza (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the Floor and I start with an AOB (Any other business). When I look at the screen, it says, “East African Legislative Assembly, First Meeting, Fifth Session of the Fourth Assembly. I think it should be the Fifth Assembly because this will feed the media.

I start by really appreciating His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda for his excellent address but also for giving us time. I think he gave us almost an hour of his time and for a President, that is not something that we should take for granted.

I also want to say that we are happy as the East African Legislative Assembly to have heard from a man who has lived the ideals of integration because he took us through the history of integration. And when I looked at the gift he gave us - I hope you had time to read through it, it was an extract from a newspaper called *Uganda Argus* of 6 June 1963. So, you can imagine from that time to now-

The Speaker: Were you born at that time?

No, *Mheshimiwa* – (*Laughter*) - Even the Republic of Kenya was not independent by that time. So, almost 61 years down the line, and at that time, our leaders; the founding fathers of our community, President- at that time he was Prime Minister Milton Obote, Kenyatta, who was also Prime Minister of Kenya, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was President of Tanganyika, and the meeting they had in Nairobi to discuss integration and committed to East African integration over 60 years down the line.

One of the words that touched me is that they pushed Kenya, sorry, they pushed the British to ensure that it granted independence to the Republic of Kenya with no conditionality. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was even ready to delay the independence of Tanzania so that other nations within the region would be independent. This resonates really with the patriotism and Pan-Africanism that the President talked about in the three historic missions that he shared with us.

The President, in simple terms, explained to us what integration means to a layperson. Sometimes you complicate matters and that is where we get wrong, especially the bureaucrats and technocrats. I think we, as legislators, should borrow a leaf from him and use the same terminology, the same way of delivering the message on integration to our people because, at the end of the day, East Africa is a people-led community. We do not have to be sophisticated to be heard.

I think he was clear about why we need integration and the importance of the common market. We need to trade among ourselves. We need to remove the barriers. He reminded us about the brotherhood, the *undugu*. What unites us is far greater than what divides us. And that also echoes our slogan of “One people, One destiny.”

Mr Speaker, I also recall in his address, he emphasised the issue of strategic security. And for me, I realise that strategic security is critical to the attainment of political federation. Strategic security should be understood to go beyond the traditional security of securing our borders to also include wealth creation, the prosperity of our people, benefiting- making sure that our people benefit from integration, and also the aspect of human security – (*Inaudible*) - of Banyamulenge, of Banyarwanda, speaking people who were forced to be there just because of the borders and the partition of Africa that we did not do as Africans. Let us sit and look at this elephant in the room and candidly talk about these conflicts because, at the end of the day, we are “One people, One destiny.”

With those remarks, Mr Speaker, I support the motion and I want to pray that as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the East African community, let us look at all the speeches of our leaders from the time this Assembly was created in 2001 and have a sitting to interrogate these speeches. I am happy that the Secretary General is here so that we can be guided. We do not need to fidget, because this is the vision of our leaders. And then we say, “Let us take stock of what we have been able to achieve, lessons learned, and then what we do in the next 25 years and so, guided by the vision of our leaders.”

We need to sit, Mr Speaker, Secretary General, and let the organs and institutions of the Community have a reflection based on the guidance of our leaders. And let us take integration to our people. I am happy that students are seated in the gallery because these are the future leaders of this Community. Let us go to our people and preach integration, but let us walk the talk as His Excellency guided. With those many remarks, I want to support - (*Applause*) – Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndangiza. Now, Hon. Dr Maghembe, and then Hon. Amongin.

11.11

Dr Jumanne Ng’waru Maghembe (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, thank you for yielding the Floor to me and thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker, I would like to first start by thanking you and

the Commission for making this sitting here in Kampala, Uganda, during these hard times. And it is especially during these hard times, these tough financial times, that we must be seen to be doing our job. We must be visible, we must sensitise the community on the importance of the Legislature and the Community as a whole. So, kudos to you and the Commission.

Mr Speaker, I am humbled and I am blessed to have sat through the speeches of five Members of the Summit during my seven years here at EALA. President Museveni, His Excellency the late President Magufuli, President Kagame, Mwamba, President Ndeshimiye, and President Ruto. The one thing that you pick up from all the speeches of our Heads of State and Members of the Summit is that they are extremely committed to the community. And they understand more than all of us its importance and the need for its survival and for it to flourish. This is something that I wish that we as leaders in the Secretariat, and in the Legislature could also follow.

Mr Speaker, I have had the pleasure of listening to two speeches by His Excellency, President Museveni. The first time in 2018 when I was a young man 34 years old, President Museveni came in here, humble man, he was wearing a big round hat which he took off in respect to the House and he gave a very, very passionate speech. We had just come from a very difficult election of a Speaker and he gave a speech that I believe brought us together as a House. It was the beginning of the House coming together.

Last week again, I listened to him and he was extremely passionate. Sorry, let me go back a bit. When we met in 2018, he gave us his autobiography. I think the book is called *Sowing the Mustard Seed*. I read about 80 per cent of it. It is a very, very well-articulated book, and now, I really need to finish it. It is a very good book. I do not have much time these days with all the campaigning and businesses. You know, we are growing up, but I will find time to read it. So he gave us his book, and as honourable, I think, Hon. Balozi Fatuma or Mheshimiwa Rose said, he also gave us a newspaper showing us the history. And this time again, he gave us a beautiful placard, which I have put in my office at home already. This is a man who cares deeply, deeply about this Community. And he gives priority to us as a Parliament because he knows that we are the representatives of the people.

He spoke at great lengths about us being *Wandugu* and he touched me also because he spoke about the Pare people. He said that in Taveta, Kenya you have people who are similar to people in Tanzania. When I go to Taveta, I speak Kipare, and they understand me completely. It is absolutely the same language. So, we truly are one people.

But in order to show how important integration is, he used the words that I think three Members of Parliament here have used. I think, Hon. Caroline, and Hon. Balozi Fatuma said, "It is a matter of life and death." It really is a matter of life and death. No country within the Community can survive without each other. We need each other as a market. We need each other for security. And when you find such a great, great man speaking for hours, he spoke, I think, for an hour or two. He spoke about the importance of integration. He even had to go up and take a short break and came back and made the same point. It is important for us as legislators and the Secretariat to take it to heart and follow through on the promise and vision of these great leaders of ours who have come before us. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dr Maghembe. Now, Hon. Amongin.

11.16

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am very much honoured this morning to talk about a man full of wisdom, a great father of not only Uganda but the continent. A person who speaks, and when he speaks, you only pick wisdom. That is none other than His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni – *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I remember 20 years ago when I was still a student leader, the President of the Republic of Uganda, in our umbrella organisation as the youth at the African Union, emphasised to the young people then, and I want to relate that to the debate we are having today, that being a youth is not only just about biology but it should be an issue of ideology. From him, he has not only been a mentor of young people not only in Uganda but across the continent. I salute His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, the President in his speech to the First Sitting of the Fifth Assembly of the East African Legislative Assembly emphasised the vision for the East African Community, which revolved around prosperity and strategic security. He also linked his speech to the four Pillars of Integration that if these have to be achieved, which involve the common market, the customs union, the common currency, and the ultimate political federation, we have to be very strategic in our approach.

His Excellency, the President of Uganda, did not only end at that. He went ahead and talked about how the whole of East Africa and almost the whole of Africa, is interlinked and related. And that is when he was able to give some examples of how Uganda, not him as the President alone, but as Uganda, was able to cooperate with Tanzania, cooperate with Kenya, cooperate with South Sudan, DRC, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, name all the East African Community countries in terms of trade.

I know the gift that the President of Uganda gave us while we were in the State House was very strategic and very important for us as the people who are occupying the space now that in whatever engagement that we deal in, it is important to be reflective of our forefathers' dreams. Our forefathers were keen to ensure that politics of identity was not there. The politics of tribes was not there. It was the politics of being East Africans and of being Africans. That is why when he gave an example of trade in markets, trading in milk, for example, in Ankole, he related that all the people produce milk, so if he has to be strategic, he has to deal with other people who do not produce milk so that he can have a market for the milk.

Therefore, as East African Community Members, our forefathers' vision of pursuing a common currency is still on our agenda. It has to be something that should be expedited so that as East Africans move within the region, they can move freely and use a common currency. And I think this is an area that the President emphasised, but it is an area that is still pending within the East African region.

His Excellency, the President of Uganda, emphasised the area of Pan-Africanism, patriotism, socio-economic transformation, and eventually democracy. I know, as I conclude, Mr Speaker, as a region we have been able to go through almost the two phases of the Pillars of Integration, but for the region to formally function we have to expedite these four areas that were founded by our forefathers as the Pillars of Integration and also ensure that the East African people can enjoy their human rights within the region, already started by our forefathers, who were already mentioned by His Excellency, the President.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, I would like, in a special way, to congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, my President, for the words of wisdom to the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. And I pray that as we sit in this House, we can keep reflecting on all the speeches that have been made by the different Heads of State of the different member countries so that together we can champion the cause of our great forefathers. Mr Speaker, I support the motion as moved by Hon. George Odongo. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable members, before we start with the next list, our microphones have been set to five minutes. When the five minutes are done, you can continue talking, but on TV they will see you talking but will not be listening to you. So, try to – [*Ms Mugenyi: Information Mr. Speaker, information*]

The Speaker: Yes.

11.23

Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr. Speaker, if you use that microphone at the front, you can actually press and extend your own time. So, unless - and that is what Hon. Amongin did. So, unless the clerk switches it off, she will press again and continue to speak. I just wanted to give you that information.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Mugenyi: Yeah.

The Speaker: So, that is why she left the seat she was before because she knows the House; she has been here before.

Ms Mugenyi: So, she was able to do much more than the five minutes.

The Speaker: Yes. Before she was sitting beside Hon. Kadogo, then she left the place and went there because she knew that she could go beyond five minutes. Anyway, before we continue, let me recognise - we have guests in the gallery. It will be just to recognise them. We have students from different districts. We have students and teachers from St James High School, which is located in Iganga District in the eastern part of Uganda. Please, let us recognise them. *-(Applause)* - Please stand for recognition. Thank you.

We also have students from The Windsor School, which is located in Wakiso District, which is in the central part of Uganda. *-(Applause)* - Please stand for recognition. Ah, they are that side. Oh, good. Look, they are all 5 and 6 years. These are our future. It is good for them to be here. Thank you, you can sit.

With this, let us take the second group of speakers, Clerks, take the names. Clerk, did you take them all? Did you see Hon. Kakooza on the other side? He is still waiting for you to –

The Speaker: I have the list now. We have Hon. Jacqueline. Again! Oh, okay. We have our Secretary General, who will be number one. Then we have Hon. Dr Kibeya and the Hon. Kennedy Mukulia. You did not write his name well. We have Hon. Gladness. Then, we have Hon. Kim Gai Francoise, Hon. Kakooza, Hon. Machano, and Hon. Victor. Let us start with our Secretary General. You have the Floor.

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11.28

Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva (The Secretary General of the East African Community): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity to speak. Allow me at the very outset to thank you, Mr Speaker, for rendering your apology earlier. Indeed, I wondered whether or not you did not recognise that being the first female Secretary-General is an important feat - (*Applause*) - Seeing the young students up there, and as a mother, I will tell you, they are older than six years. They are probably 10 or 11 going up.

The Speaker: Really?

Ms Nduva: It is important for them to know that they too can be Secretary-Generals. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, I did not have the opportunity to be present when the President addressed EALA, but I have had a moment to read through his speech. I was also present not too long ago when he was in Nairobi, Kenya, and was able to endorse the candidature of the AUC candidate of East Africa.

Mr Speaker, I must say that I resonate very well with the remarks and reflections that have been stated here by the honourable members, that indeed, His Excellency, the President of Uganda, echoes a lot of wisdom in his statements. Also, Mr Speaker, he really values his cows.

Honourable members, I was able to pick up three issues that the president emphasised. Number one; the need for prosperity through the integration of our markets and broadening of the same. Secondly, strategic security, which is an ever-going concern. And thirdly, political federation. All these echo very well and resonate with our four pillars and indeed our priorities of deepening and widening our integration.

Mr Speaker, allow me to echo the words of Hon. Fatuma that even as we celebrate our silver jubilee in November and indeed all of us, the organs and the partner states are invited to the celebrations which are at top gear. It is a moment to look back and to reflect and ask ourselves what will we value more, is it our national interest or regional benefits? I do hope that the regional benefits will supersede.

Mr Speaker, we are committed as a Secretariat to ensure that we uphold the wise words of His Excellency, the President of Uganda and work together as one of the Organs of the Community. I invite us to reflect on the journey that led to the breakup of the Community in 1977. You will see that these were very small issues that could have been addressed. It was stays of application, it was an agreed-upon budget, it was border disputes, and it was inter-partner state relations. With these very few words, I want to thank you.

Allow me before I sit to register our apologies of our Council Members. There are very many conflicting activities and we hope to coordinate better as we proceed with our calendars. Thank you very much and with this, allow me to support the motion by the honourable member. I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Secretary General. Now, we go to Hon. Kibeya -

11.32

Dr Saidi Kibeya (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to support the motion from Hon. Odongo about the speech of the President of the Republic of Uganda. If I may pick- allow me, one point about the ultimate political federation. And for this, I remember the gift given to us of the extract from this newspaper, *The Uganda Argus* of June 1963, meaning 61 years ago. And it was written that it was a thought of 40 years at that time, meaning now, more than one century. Remembering that, he told us that the first experience of white people coming toward Africa was about 400 years before experiencing a white man coming to Uganda. And he recommended that we prepare for global competition. If we want to survive, let us start right now. Let us not wait for other communities to take us East Africans as a reservoir of genes. If we do not go to compete or be at the forefront of the global competition by uniting together, we cannot punch.

This speech is very rich, showing us that we have to fast track the three pillars – customs union, common market, and monetary union – and we are late for that – to realise efforts of more than a century, from our fathers, from our leaders; among them Julius Nyerere who was on that picture, Jomo Kenyatta and Milton Obote from the three founding countries of the new East African Community.

It is now my honour to support the motion so that our children, our future, and our Community, can survive through this global competition. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dr Kibeya. Now onto Hon. Mukulia. Do you have a good microphone?

11.35

Dr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Mr Speaker, I am going to stick to the time given or use less than that.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr Speaker, and the Commission, first for bringing the plenary Sitting to Kampala, Uganda. That was a very wise decision of the Commission.

Equally, I would like to thank the Members of the Uganda Chapter for the warm welcome that you have accorded to us. (*Applause*) This is indeed a great opportunity that we are in Kampala, the Pearl of Africa. It is indeed an opportunity for us to be able to integrate in terms of visiting the communities. Many of us have been going out –

Again, I would like to say that we are here to be able to deliberate on what we have come to do. However, what puzzles me is that when you look at the functions bestowed on the Summit by Article 11, the Summit shall give general direction in terms of how the Community moves.

However, as we speak, we do not have the Council of Ministers in front of us. This is something I am not comfortable with. We should be having the Council here. Let me refer you to the speech of the President when he said that we support the African common market – they call it the Continental Free Trade Area.

Yesterday, when we were supposed to consider one of the Bills that is to be able to operationalise the East African Monetary Union, there was no single minister, not even half a minister. This tells you where the Community is going.

If the Summit members are so committed to the integration agenda, and people who are bestowed with the function of being – especially when you look at Article 14 of the Treaty which says that the Council shall be the policy organ of the Community – then who are we talking to? Who are the policy organs of this Community? It is the Council. And the Council is missing here.

We have heard an apology from the Secretary General that the Council members are not around because of conflicting – by the way, for your information SG, almost all our countries have two ministers in charge of the EAC affairs. Two. If they are not two, a country has one minister but that minister is only solely responsible for East Africa Community Affairs. That is something that we need to look at seriously.

Many Members said that President Museveni said that he is a student of Julius Nyerere. Personally, I am his student. Being his student, I feel that the Council should be hearing what President Museveni was telling us. This is so that they can take into consideration what the Summit thinks about this Community. What the Summit members are really looking at in this community.

We need to collectively, as East Africa, the Executive, the Secretariat, including the Council and the legislators, to be able to take the speeches of these presidents. We were in Kenya, Rwanda, and Bujumbura, and we heard what all these leaders of the Community were talking about – the integration agenda is key in their speech. But we do not have the policy-making organ taking the integration agenda seriously.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion that was brought in by Hon. George Odongo in terms of giving tribute to the President after what he has told us. I support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kennedy Mukulia. Before I go to the next Member, our honourable ministers – I do not know if they have looked at our programme but they had two papers today. They had the Report of the Council of Ministers on the Management Letters and Financial Statement for the East African Community Organs and Institutions for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023 and this Report of the Council of Ministers on the Foreign Security Policies of the East African Community for the Period 2021-2024. No one was here to lay the papers. Hon. Kennedy?

Mr Kennedy Kalonzo (Kenya): Mr Speaker, since you have raised that issue, I am just seeking a clarification. As per our Order Paper, there are also questions addressed to the Council of Ministers –

The Speaker: Yes, it is not only this.

Mr Kennedy Kalonzo: I do not know how we will proceed when they are not present.

The Speaker: Thank you. This was the next item but for this morning, there was no one. We hope that when we reach this item on the questions, they will be around. They can send any of them to represent the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Mashaka Ngole (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, in line with that, I wanted the Counsel to the Community (CTC) to guide us. Is it procedurally right for this Assembly to be conducted in the absence of the ministers in view of Article 48 of our Treaty? In fact, the Article provides that the Assembly has to be constituted by the Members. According to Article 48, the Members of the Assembly are; the Members who are elected from the Member States but also the Ex-Officio Members from the Partner States. When we talk of ex-officio members from the partner states, these include the Secretary-General, the Ministers and the CTC. In the absence of any member from the Council of Ministers, is it procedurally right for this Assembly to continue? Are we constituted as Members of the Assembly in view of Article 48 of our Treaty?

I would like the CTC to guide us.

Mr David Sankok (Kenya): In addition to that, Mr Speaker, we also need the CTC to guide us on whether we can have sanctions that we can mete out upon this notorious Council of Ministers because they are becoming totally notorious. Imagine the Order Paper is clear – it has questions directed to them and none of them, not even one – and we have seven Member States – surely we must have some sanctions that we should mete out. We should name and shame them.

The Speaker: Honourable members, I give the Floor to the CTC. Our Members from DRC are all online following the proceedings. We have checked and they are attending this meeting. This is for your information.

11.44

Dr Anthony Kafumbe (The Council to the Community): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that when you look at Article 48, the composition of the Assembly is set out - the Members and Ex-Officios. However, for purposes of your Sitting, Mr Speaker, given that you already have Rules of Procedure which determine your quorum, the applicable rule is Rule 12 in the old version and Rule 13 in the new version. That is what guides you as the Speaker to determine a quorum. I believe you have a quorum and therefore it is okay for you to proceed.

Beyond that, the honourable Secretary General explained that – I am sure after this meeting we will be able to make some kind of follow-up to make sure that the ministers are able to attend. I think it was beyond their control. They were committed by other EAC-related activities. It was not deliberate that they are not here.

The Speaker: Thank you. Let us proceed. I now give the Floor to the next Member to contribute. Hon. Gladness, please.

11.46

Dr Gladness Salema (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I would like to appreciate the speech which was given by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. It was quite insightful. It brought out a lot of emotional sentiments.

From that speech, I was able to draw out four issues which I think are important that we as Members of Parliament ought to understand.

First, what I understood is that our survival or our sustainability as the East African Community will depend on how we understand the whole aspect or concept of prosperity and be able to define it according to the context of the East African Community and understand, even at the level of the people of the East African Community.

I would like to also encourage my fellow Members of Parliament that we need to understand and define clearly what prosperity is in East Africa. That will be our true north. Otherwise, each country, each individual will have their own ways of doing things and we will miss the target – the expectations of integration.

Another aspect that came out very clearly is that the President is actually futuristic. He even questioned whether doing things in an old manner would take us to where we are expected. With that, I believe he is thinking of modernisation. That came out very clearly in his speech – that we have to look back and see how we are doing our things.

With the current global trends, where we talk of finished technologies, I think it is high time that even when we make our decisions, we understand that the world is about modernisation. If we are not thinking of modernisation, we will miss our space and position in the global economy.

Something else that came out of his speech that I took very seriously was the importance of understanding the whole aspect of performance. Despite the fact that we have and love our countries – also the *undugu* that he emphasised – but to him, performance is very important. He gave one example of efficiency, that is, that he was advised to ban the rice from Tanzania but his argument was that Ugandans are not efficient.

This is very important if we want to ensure sustainability and be competitive. Performance should never be ignored and our decisions should be informed by performance outcomes that we have in our countries and in the Community. That will help us to develop very competitive value chains and even if we are integrated, we would be able to get greater outcomes than when we ignore the issue of performance.

He also talked about the importance of understanding each other's comparative advantages. We should look at this as an opportunity and we should take advantage of that.

With those few remarks, I would like to say that I support the motion that was brought by Hon. Odongo. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Dr Gladness. This is your first time to speak in the House. Congratulations! Now let us go to Hon. Kim Gai.

11.50

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here to support the motion raised by Hon. Odongo.

I have only four points. I will not go through the speech that was presented by His Excellency because the challenges have been addressed by the President.

Number one is the absence of the ministers. We were in Kigali and one of the Bills that were brought to this House is a Bill that we are going to discuss tomorrow. I remember that Bill had

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been rejected by the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Burundi. At that time, unfortunately, the Chair of the Summit was by the Republic of Kenya and even the Ministers from Kenya had pronounced themselves when we were sitting in Kigali that this bill should be passed by the House. Unfortunately, when she went back to Nairobi, she wrote another letter and said that the Republic of Kenya was rejecting the Bill.

Now, the minister of the same Republic of Kenya came when we were in Entebbe, she took oath in this House and she is supposed to interact with the committee and be in this House and defend the position of the Republic of Kenya. But, unfortunately, she is not here.

Mr Speaker, you can see now that the head of State, H.E. Kaguta Museveni is giving guidelines. Who else again, when our Head of State is giving us guidance, is missing?

Even when the honourable guided on the financial issue, President Museveni said that 120 million is not an issue. It is not an issue of money but we have a problem. This problem should be addressed. This Parliament of the East African Community, including our Secretary-General, needs to interact with the Parliament and Members of the Parliament of Uganda. We need to tell them that the Community and the ministers are accountable to the Members of Parliament. So, if we are not going to guide and tell them what is going on in the Community, we shall not go anywhere.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of the restrictive blocks at our borders, there are two issues here that even my brother, Hon. Odongo, who is the chairperson of the Ugandan chapter, knows. Even us who are South Sudanese and consumers accept all goods from the region to enter South Sudan without restricting them.

We have only one good which comes from South Sudan but has also been blocked by Uganda, which is fish. We export fish to the DRC via Uganda. Now, those crates of fish are being blocked at the border in Elegu and South Sudan is no longer doing business within the Community. Mr Speaker, we need to address these issues.

The other one is also about here in Uganda. We have families here; we have a population of more than two million in Uganda. The Government of Uganda cuts off SIM cards every three months. They tell you, "Please, cross the border and register again".

However, we have families here; they are going to be here for 20 to 30 years. How can you restrict them from using SIM cards and every three months, they should be cut? These are issues that need to be solved and I am very sure that when we are here and in this Parliament, we will interact with the leader of Uganda to resolve those issues.

Mr Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the motion but we have a lot of work to do, particularly with the Secretary-General. Madam SG, you know you are a mother and when you are a mother and children are crying, you are the first victims. So, we do not want to cry again under your hands. We want this Community to move, but make sure that the members of the Council of Ministers are on board, taking up their mandate, not only when they come to chop the budget of the Community. They will be there. We are building this Community-

Mr Speaker, if the Council to which the questions related to the Community is not going to be available, who is going to solve the problems of the Community? I think we are in this - (*Applause*) I beg to support the motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kim Gai. We will now go to Hon. Francois, then Hon. Kakooza. Where is Hon. Kakooza?

11.56

Ms Francois Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, sir, for catching my eye. I rise to, on the onset, congratulate Hon. Odongo for this brilliant and timely motion. I declare that I was able to follow the proceedings of the Assembly online. Congratulations to the Assembly for being able to do this and also for the Hansard availability of texts, so that everyone can have access to debate and congratulate His Excellency.

11.57

Mr Kanini Kega (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. You know this is a House of rules and procedure and order. Hon. Francois has said that you caught her eye, which should be the other way around. (*Laughter*) Still, on that, Mr Speaker, our Procedure 37 says that “a Member desirous to speak shall rise in his place or her place and address herself or himself to the Speaker”. But I have seen that you have delegated the role to the clerks. So, are the clerks now supposed to see us or it is you who is supposed to see us, Mr Speaker?

The Speaker: No. The clerks only register names, then names are given to me. It is me who is giving the Floor to Members. She is right.

11.58

Ms Francois Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, sir, for protecting me. As I proceed, I thank Hon. Odongo for this timely motion and also on the onset, congratulate His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, not the United Republic of Uganda, my dear colleague, Hon. Gladness. It was an oversight.

We are here to recall some good memories. I am serving the Fifth Assembly of EALA. As you received good memories from him, as said by Hon. Maghembe, we also received a good book - *Sowing the Mustard Seed*. I read it entirely. It is a good one, Mr Speaker. That is why I would like to tell you, in one sentence, that it is a story of unflinching bravery.

It is a story of an unwavering search for a true revolutionary and development-oriented leadership. It is what His Excellency continues to do, to show tough and wise leadership to the people of East Africa because EAC is people-centred and also a market-driven Community.

As we continue to congratulate His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, the wisdom he has been giving towards the integration agenda granted him merit to chair the fourth pillar of integration, not only those but the previous ones. The one which is custodian to him is the integration of political federation.

What he has been doing is very important. We learned through the Committee on Regional Affairs that the Constitution is available and they are now moving towards integration - what is called “political confederation”.

You know the EAC has a lot of challenges; part of them are political differences. We also have infrastructure issues. We have non-tariff barriers and non-tariff measures that need a man of

wisdom like His Excellency to lead this political confederation process. It is very important that as Members of Parliament, as we honour him in the House, we also need to take his wisdom to make sure we move in his path.

For instance, EAC as a region is still facing issues related to hunger. You know I chair the Committee on Agriculture. Mr Speaker, sir, hunger is a big problem in the Community and since Uganda is a country with enough food, we are here to make sure as we support the integration agenda, we also appeal for the EAC to be a bloc with equity in distribution of food.

We have countries in the EAC with surplus food, but others have less. It is now an opportunity to make sure as we look up to the good example of good leaders with wisdom, we cooperate and move forward as a team; not only as one EAC, but also as one Africa, as said by the honourable SG.

Thank you very much. On this note, I support the motion and congratulate His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: We will now have Hon. Machano and Hon. Victor, and stop there.

12.02

Mr Ali Machano (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity extended to me to be among the Members having the Floor to appreciate the address by His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

Mr Speaker, let me first go directly to the point because I would like to appreciate and thank some other Members and the people in Uganda. I first want to commend His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the direct and informative speech. I can say that was not a mere speech; it was a lecture to the Members. We learned a lot from his speech *-(Applause)-* and Members here are witnesses. They became happy because of the fruits they got from His Excellency's address.

His Excellency the President said a lot in the perspective aspect when he said that we are supposed to treat this region as a market, where Member states produce products and then we use this forum as a place to sell our goods and help one another.

I want to go further on what the President said. We are also supposed to use this space for travelling. We need to visit the Partner States. We need to have tourism; we need to be tourists. I want to take this opportunity to welcome EALA Members and citizens of East Africa to visit our beloved country, Tanzania. Please visit Tanzania, so that you can enjoy the flavour of Mount Kilimanjaro. *(Applause)* Please visit Tanzania. You can enjoy the presence of Ngorongoro and Serengeti. In addition to that, welcome to Zanzibar, so that you can enjoy the flavour of the spice of Zanzibar. That is what I wanted to add to my colleagues' submissions. We will enjoy each and everything in our country.

This was my submission in line with the address. But before I leave this time you gave me, Mr Speaker, sir, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the kindness that the people of Uganda have shown us. My appreciation is to the people of Uganda and the Government. We are really enjoying our stay in Uganda and we will never regret our presence here. Thank you so much.

This is in line with the great support and commitment of our colleagues, the Members from the Uganda chapter. You are really committed; you know how you have made our stay in Uganda busy. We enjoyed this weekend. We visited Hon. Mary's farm. We learned a lot from there and we expect much from you.

In addition to that, Mr Speaker, sir, let me appreciate the commissioners in this Parliament. They have successfully managed to extend their trust and confidence in me and appointed me as the co-chair for sports. (*Applause*) I really appreciate it. My commitment before this Parliament is that together with my chair and other leaders, we are going to make sure our participation becomes active. Thank you very much. I support the motion and I submit. Thank you, Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you. We will now have Hon. Victor and Hon. Kennedy Kalonzo.

12.06

Mr Victor Burikukiye (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the Floor. I would like to take this opportunity to commend and appreciate the speech of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni - a rich and educative speech.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Thinking is a very important weapon in dealing with problems." I would say that our President, His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is a thinker; he is an expert in giving insights, directions and guidance to move forward to the integration agenda.

In his speech, you can find solutions and practical answers to every issue that can hinder the integration agenda in all aspects. So, the ball is in the court of the Council, which is the policy Organ, to implement the agenda of integration. They have to follow the guidance and instructions so that we have a better future for East Africans and a good and prosperous Africa which is more integrated and sovereign. Thank you so much. I support the motion. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Good. Hon. Kennedy Kalonzo now.

12.08

Mr Kennedy Kalonzo (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Let me start firstly by thanking His Excellency, President Museveni. Let me also thank our host, Rt Hon. Speaker "Triple A". Let me also thank you, Mr Speaker and your Commission, for bringing us here, and also to our Ugandan colleagues who have made sure that some of us are not otherwise as homesick as we would be.

I start by saying that I support this motion. I think, honestly, after such wisdom, I would have to be insane not to support this motion and the great wisdom we received from our President. I will just focus on one point of prosperity. For us, I believe, to be prosperous, we need to work hard as a Community and achieve the common currency that we are always talking about.

Mr Speaker and Members, when I saw the Front Bench was missing before we got the apologies from our very able Secretary-General, I had imagined asking her that perhaps they have donated their powers otherwise to enable her to proceed effectively. So, Rt Hon. SG, as your colleagues are *wanjipanga*, you can take the initiative - I do not know who you need to seek consensus from - to give us a sample of the East African currency, just similar to what the BRICS launched recently.

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To continue being prosperous, if we cannot agree, there is nothing stopping us from having the East African currency and our currencies running concurrently, as was the case in the EU. I hope you will encourage them to join us. I want to support what Hon. Rose said about prosperity. Those are some of the things we need. She asked, “What can we do?” and that is one of the answers.

Another thing we can do is to continue to work to achieve the domestication and liberalisation of our airspace. My brother, Hon. Machano has invited us to Tanzania and many East Africans would love to travel, but because we have not domesticated our airspaces, it becomes very expensive. So, I think as a way forward, to answer Hon. Mary and what we need to do, if we can achieve those two, we will have done a great service to the people and citizens of East Africa.

With those many remarks, Mr Speaker, I support this motion. Thank you. (*Hon. Sankok rose_*) I can take the information.

12.11

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Mr Speaker, he actually said that the Council of Ministers will have delegated some powers to the SG. The powers are delegated downwards, not upward. The honourable SG is the second most powerful person in the EAC. So she is the one to delegate to the Council of Ministers, but not delegation upward.

The Speaker: We will not debate that. Before I give the Floor to the mover of the motion, I want to remind our last speaker to go and read Annex 4 of our rules. It is about the dress code. Hon. Kennedy Kalonzo, you have to – next time – It is not about your shirt or maybe trouser. Next time, consider this. Thank you.

I now give the Floor to the mover of the motion

Mr Odongo: Thank you very much, Rt Hon. Speaker and colleagues for overwhelmingly supporting the motion.

Rt Hon. Speaker, a few things emerged during the debate that I thought I should comment on and then I can finally conclude.

First of all, the question of participation of the Council is really very important. We all understand the power structure of the EAC and we know the leverage that the Council has, particularly in ensuring that recommendations of this Assembly gain traction. We do not run a state; we are not yet there as EAC so that we have an East African federal government. We still depend on our sovereign states that are represented here by our members of the Council and whatever decisions that this Assembly takes and whatever guidance that we receive from the Summit are transitioned to policy to implementation through the Council.

Therefore, the Council is an indispensable part of the work that the Assembly and EAC do and until the Council begins to appreciate that leverage, the gaps in our legislative, oversight and representation work will remain glaring for a long time. The East Africans cannot wait to see the wheels of integration moving and the dynamo that can move the wheels of our integration is actually the Council of Ministers because they sit in the cockpit of decision making and they are the ones who ultimately make the decisions that allow for things to happen in our Partner States.

We have said this for a long time. You can have an excuse for the first time and it is understood. You can then have another for the second time and it is also understood but if this becomes an occurrence and there are matters that you address that even exclude you from participating in a forum that is being addressed by Summit who is your appointing authority then there is some element of contempt. I begin to read a sense of contempt for the work of the Assembly but also contempt for the Summit itself.

This is a very serious matter and we cannot casually take it because there has been an apology that has been conveyed. In fact, the Secretary-General has been gracious to convey that apology but under normal circumstances, Rt Hon. Speaker, this House should have read out some sanctions and it is still within our powers as an Assembly because these are Members of our Assembly, to come out with a sanctions regime for non-participation of people who are Members.

Rt Hon. Speaker, the speeches that have been made here during the debate have centred on the primacy of people as the key drivers of our integration and during the struggle for African liberation, I remember FRELIMO (the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) were, for a large part, being hosted by *Mwalimu* Nyerere and they moved to a place called Nachingwea in Tanzania, which has actually become a melting pot for African liberation studies.

Rt Hon. Speaker, as the mover of the motion, I am just doing the summary so I beg your indulgence. When Samora Machel took over the leadership of FRELIMO and he was addressing the media, journalists asked him one question: why has FRELIMO been very successful? That was in 1982 after the collapse of the Portuguese government in Mozambique. He said, here our power is consolidated. It is indomitable and this is because it is dependent on the people here. People do not defend abstractions, they defend concrete things; a piece of land, schools, roads. He said the revolution is concrete and the enemy is concrete too.

Our people in East Africa would want to see how we translate this vision to something concrete that they begin to experience, feel and be satisfied with and the President challenges us, in his speech, to say, we must make trade real. We have got to remove the non-tariff barriers.

During the course of this week, we are most likely going to engage with the private sector and I am glad that invitations have been extended. The Rt Hon. Secretary-General, who has done excellently well for the time that she has been there and we must congratulate her, will be addressing the CEO forum formally at the private sector.

The private sector players would want to see that this Assembly does its work and this is in line with the speech of the President, that we must fight to remove non-tariff barriers, that we fight to ensure that there is compliance with the legal regime that we have passed as an Assembly, that we try to facilitate trade so that we can deepen our trade relations and have prosperity shared because we have a trickle down model where when the business people are doing well, we provide market for the lower people, and the whole value chain takes advantage of the seamless integration, especially trade integration.

We have a role to play and because people do not defend abstractions, they actually defend real things, we must translate this talk into real things that East Africans can begin to benefit from.

Rt Hon. Speaker, that brings me to the comment by Hon. Kim Gai about the fish - that Uganda authorities are blocking the South Sudanese from exporting fish to the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will take it up with the authorities to understand the nature of the problem and find means of resolving it because as a country, our first line of defence has always been to integrate deeper so we want to facilitate trade and we are definitely going to do everything within our means to see that we work together with the South Sudanese authorities and our own frontline managers of the borders here to ensure that we resolve this matter. If it is a policy issue, it will be resolved.

On the matter of SIM cards being cut after three months, again this is something that we shall raise with the relevant institutions here to understand the nature of the problem and also be able to fast-track the resolution of that problem.

Otherwise, I want to thank you, honourable members. You know, Africa is a big continent with a big population and we should be doing more. The Western world constitutes only 12 per cent of the global population and yet they are using their economic, military and cultural power to dominate the world. We need to flip that dominance the other way around and it can only happen when we become more sophisticated and more integrated so that our response is cohesive and we are acting as one people so that we can grow our economies to begin to be competitive. We need to embrace this regional integration but also embrace the Africa Free Continental Trade Area to open up our trade with Africa and make sure that prosperity is driven across Africa.

I would like therefore to thank the following people: Hon. Ole Sankok, Hon. Kadogo, hon. Amb. Mathias, Hon. Kanini Kega, Hon. Gideon Gatpan, Hon. Siranda Gerald, Hon. Caroline Kayonga, Hon. Francine Rutazana, Hon. Zipporah Kering, Hon. Mary Mugenyi, Hon. Rose Akol, Hon. Fatuma Ndangiza, Hon. Maghembe, Hon. Amongin, the honourable Secretary General, Hon. Dr Kibeya, Hon. Kennedy Mukulia, Hon. Gladness, Hon. Kim Gai, Hon. Francois, Hon. Machano, Hon. Victor Burikukiye, and Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka.

As I conclude, I want to thank the Rt Hon. Secretary General for pointing out one critical element: that 25 years is a quarter of a century. If you give birth to a child, at the age of 25 years, that is a very responsible man or woman. By this time, we should be a responsible Community taking care of our own and picking our own bills.

So 25 years of the EAC calls for reflection to see what we are doing right, what it is that we are not doing right and propose actionable solutions. They should be within our means and we should try to recommit to ensure that the next quarter is a completely different one for the Community, that we can become stronger and that the words of President Yoweri Museveni and the other leaders in the EAC: President Kagame, President Ndayishimye, President Salva Kiir, President Tshisekedi, President Dr Ruto and Dr Mama Suluhu Samia come to fruition. *Asanteni sana*, thank you so much.

The Speaker: Honourable members, you were 24 supporting this motion.

Mr George Odongo: Rt Hon. Speaker, I forgot to mention one name for purposes of the *Hansard* and that gentleman is the Chair of my Committee of Legal. Chances are that he may also delete

me from the committee. The Hon. Mashaka Ngole, the Chair of the Committee of Legal, Rules and Privileges. *Asante sana.*

The Speaker: Thank you. You were 24 supporting this motion. While in Kenya, we were 26, meaning that we follow our leaders.

Before putting the question, because we have received other guests who may want to go back to school, we have in the gallery from Kampala Parents School, students and teachers who are with us now to observe the proceedings. Could they stand up to be recognised by the honourable members? (*Applause*)

They are all young people and I am sure that within 20, 30, 40 years, among them will be some who will be sitting here as Members of Parliament of this country of Uganda. Thank you.

Let me put the question that this Assembly do resolve to record its comments to appreciate the address of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, on the rationale, vision and guidance regarding the EAC integration during his address to the East African Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 22 October 2024.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Honourable members, I have been informed that we have no minister to respond to our questions meaning that we have to consider the programme again. We have a meeting today to consider it so with this, I have to adjourn this – Procedure, Hon. Kanini Kega.

Mr James Kega Kanini (Kenya): Mr Speaker, before you adjourn, I seek your indulgence because as the Chair of the inter-parliamentary games and with my coach here, I thought it would be important to remind the Members that we need to start proper training. We have tried as much as possible - Today, there were quite a number of us but I also want to remind Members that on 6 December, we will be going to Mombasa for the inter-parliamentary games. This time round, there is no plenary and there is no committee so there will be games and for you to participate, for you to go there, you must at least participate because these are basically games so it is very important that you be registered.

I am the Chair and you must be registered in at least one discipline because why then would you go to Mombasa? It is basically because of games so this time round, we beseech Members kindly that every morning, we are training from 6.00 am or even before – It is even good for your health. Kindly make sure that you identify a sporting activity and register to be a participant in that discipline. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr James Kakooza (Uganda): I think regarding what you have communicated about the absence of ministers, I think the Secretary-General should also help us to know because most of the reports

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The Speaker: Hon. Kakooza, we have closed that –

Mr James Kakooza (Uganda): I am not talking about the debate but the absence of ministers.

The Speaker: We talked about that and you were not in. You missed your- *(Laughter)* So, honourable members, let us adjourn this sitting to Wednesday, 30 October 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in this Chamber. Thank you.

(The Assembly rose at 12:33 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 30th October 2024 at 9:00 a.m.)