

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Welcoming remarks by RT. Hon. NGOGA K. MARTIN, Speaker of east African legislative assembly at the address of Rt. Hon. Hon. Augustin Iyamuremye, speaker of the Rwanda senate: 1st NOVEMBER 2022**

* **Your Excellency, Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda;**
* **Rt. Hon. Augustin Iyamuremye, Speaker of the Rwanda Senate;**
* **Hon. Hon Amb. Ezechiel Nibigira, Minister for East African Community Affairs, Youth, Culture and Sports *and* Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Members of the Council;**
* **Hon. Dr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki, the Secretary General of the East African Community;**
* **Hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Rwanda;**
* **Members of the Diplomatic Corp;**
* **Senior Government officials in attendance;**
* **Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen:**
* Allow me to thank the **Rt. Hon. Augustin Iyamuremye, Speaker of the Rwanda Senate** and indeed, the entire Government of the Republic of Rwanda for accepting to host EALA for the entire duration of the 1st Meeting of the 5th Session of the 4th Assembly.
* ***Mr. Speaker***, thank you for opening the doors of parliament for us. We commend the existence of different avenues of collaboration between our two Houses. Our roles and service to our people are complementary.
* EALA and Parliament of Rwanda needs to continue to improve a closer working relationship for the benefit of our regional integration. We shall continue to devise avenues by which the Parliament of Rwanda and the EALA through joint activities, could harness, mobilize and leverage the participation of the people of this part of East Africa in the regional integration process. In addition to existing cooperation framework between Parliament of Rwanda and EALA, we have more room to nature it even further by finding more avenues for institutional partnership.
* EALA and Parliament of Rwanda are institutions with comparable and related mandates and functions.
* This very gesture of accommodating EALA in the precincts of the House over the plenary period, communicates a strong statement of cordiality and one of pure friendship. We as EALA are truly grateful for the friendship and look forward to strengthening and solidifying the relations even further.
* It is with great Pleasure and honour that I extend to you my unreserved support and wish you every success in your duties.
* I now take this opportunity to invite the Rt. Hon. Augustin Iyamuremye, Speaker of the Rwanda Senate to make his remarks.
* Welcome!