

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY RT. HON. NGOGA K. MARTIN, SPEAKER OF EALA
AT THE ADDRESS OF H.E. DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN, PRESIDENT OF
ZANZIBAR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL -
FEBRUARY 26TH, 2019, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ZANZIBAR**

- **Your Excellency, Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council;**
- **HE Amb. Seif Ali Iddi, The 2nd Vice-President of Zanzibar;**
- **His Lordship the Chief Justice, Hon. Omar Othman Makungu;**

- **Rt. Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives;**
- **Hon. Chairperson and Members of the EAC Council of Ministers;**
- **Hon. Ministers of Zanzibar;**
- **Hon. Members of EALA and the Zanzibar House of Representatives;**
- **The Secretary General of the East African Community;**
- **Members' *Emeritus* of EALA;**
- **Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners Present;**
- **Religious Leaders;**
- **Members of the Armed Forces;**
- **Representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society;**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Your Excellency, I am pleased to welcome you to the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 4th Assembly, which commenced last week here in this beautiful Island of Zanzibar. At the outset, I take the singular opportunity on behalf of the Members of EALA and on my own behalf to bring very warm greetings from the people of East Africa. We further wish you good health and long life and a prosperous and progressive 2019.

Previously, Excellency, you have addressed EALA; 3rd Assembly in October 2016 and the 2nd Assembly way back in December 2007. We the 4th Assembly are therefore extremely grateful to be accorded this opportunity to meet here in Zanzibar and be able to interact with our sisters and brothers from this part of East Africa. We sincerely thank you for promptly responding to our invitation and your acceptance to address us.

Your Excellency, permit me to quickly bring to your attention the scorecard of the 4th Assembly, which concluded its first year of service in December 2018. Collectively, in 2018, EALA enacted 5 Bills namely; The EAC Oaths Bill 2017; The EAC Monetary Institute Bill 2017; The EAC Statistics Bill 2018; The EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2018; and The EAC Appropriation Bill 2018. The EAC Monetary Institute Bill 2018 and The EAC Statistics Bureau Bill 2018 are significant prerequisites in so far as the establishment of the East African Monetary Union is concerned. These are key instruments expected to shield us from the volatilities associated with operating different monetary and exchange rate policies in the Partner States.

EALA adopted 6 key Resolutions and 14 pertinent reports and undertook a successful tour of the Northern and Central Corridors to assess the levels of performance and challenges, the report of which was debated and approved by the House.

Your Excellency, in 2019, the Assembly embarked on its second year of service with renewed vigour and spirit. Only recently, EALA completed a 6-day sensitization and outreach activity anchored under the theme *"Accessing Gains and Assessing Challenges of Integration"*. It is through such initiatives of connecting with citizens that EALA is able to remain in touch with various stakeholders as part of its representative mandate. One of the key lessons we have learnt is that there is need for increased mobilization and sensitization of the *wananchi* to increase their levels of awareness on the integration process and its expected benefits. In doing this, there is need to promote a culture of east-africanness, driven by our Community's fundamental principles, as provided for under Chapter 6 of the Treaty.

Your Excellency, last week, at the inception of this meeting, all of our six EALA Committees met and deliberated on key matters, many of which shall be debated as from tomorrow. We further expect to commence debate and enact the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2019, adopt salient motions as well as table a number of questions to the Council of Ministers. In addition, we will meet with a number of stakeholders as part and parcel of our duty to be people-centred in all what we do.

Your Excellency, in this exciting time of integration, we remain committed to maintaining the focus that necessitates the implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market as we concretize next steps toward the Monetary Union and the Political Federation.

Absolute political will is vital in addressing existing bottlenecks or Non-Tariff Barriers to trade and free movement of persons and goods, among others. It is also imperative that all efforts are made to ensure the promotion of our own Kiswahili as the main language of East Africans. A common language unites people into a nation. In fact EALA has already adopted a Resolution calling upon the Summit to expedite the use of Kiswahili in our region.

It is pleasing to also note that the Summit of the EAC Heads of State that met in Arusha two weeks ago pronounced itself on a wide array of areas in its quest to strengthen integration. EALA will be guided by the unwavering political commitment to regional integration from the Summit and today, from Your Excellency.

Your Excellency, it is imperative that we focus as a continuous process, on ensuring harmonization of national laws with the EAC laws. Currently each Partner State is doing so at a different pace. This affects the pace at which the Community should be moving. Research reveals that Partner States generally should amend about 600 pieces of legislation to approximate the same to the Common Market Protocol. At EALA, we note that this will be a tedious exercise. EALA will discuss and avail practical proposals to be undertaken by the Partner States in order for us to make faster progress in this area.

Your Excellency, we extend our appreciation to you and your government for continuing to steer Zanzibar to greater heights. Zanzibar has continued to be an attractive destination to both regional and international tourists, thanks to the magnificent coastline, excellent facilities and above all the welcoming people.

We have seen and we have plans to set out time and visit some important investments that are significantly changing the face of Zanzibar. Clearly there is potential for this part of East Africa to compete with other global investment hotspots. The entire East Africa will benefit from your big plans.

Your Excellency, All this is possible, thanks to strategic thinking and planning, peace, and stability. To this end, I extend our appreciation to you and your government for the steadfast and forward looking leadership that continue to enable Zanzibar experience this steady and real progress.

Your Excellency, within the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, the Partner States agreed that the ultimate stage of integration will be a Political Federation. As we speak today, a lot of major decisions have already been made by the Summit. It has been agreed for instance that we shall commence as confederation and a draft constitution to this effect is being worked on by our experts.

We are pleased that the issue of political unity in Africa has not only been so eloquently espoused by our Mwalimu Nyerere, but it is only in East Africa that two nations of Zanzibar and Tanganyika ever actualized a Political Union, to which we all stand tall and proud of as a people with a lot in common. We have no alternative but to unite and be stronger if we are to survive with relevance and dignity globally.

Therefore, as we plan to attain a political federation, we are proud that we already have a homegrown reference point around which we can work. Thank you the United Republic of Tanzania for standing the test of time and for maintaining your Union. You inspire the region and beyond.

Your Excellency, permit me to briefly introduce to you some of the dignitaries present here – ref to list of dignitaries - **LIST TO BE AVAILED** (finalize with Members of EALA, Chapter by Chapter).

May I also congratulate the United Republic of Tanzania for sending to EALA a team of dedicated and committed Members.

Without taking up more time, it is now my great pleasure and honour to welcome Your Excellency to address this August Assembly, today, Tuesday 26th February 2019, here in the Chamber of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Chukwani.

I thank you for your kind attention!