

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY RT. HON. NGOGA K. MARTIN, SPEAKER OF
EALA AT THE ADDRESS OF RT. HON. ZUBEIR ALI MAULID, SPEAKER OF
THE ZANZIBAR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - 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;**
- **Representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society;**
- **Religious Leaders;**
- **Members of the Armed Forces;**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a progressive and fruitful 2019. Let me thank the Rt. Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Zanzibar and indeed, the entire Government of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for accepting to host EALA for the entire duration of the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 4th Assembly.

Allow me, though belatedly to congratulate you for being elected Speaker of the *Baraza la Wawakilishi*, since March 2016 and for your dedicated leadership and stewardship. I duly congratulate you for this and I am confident that under your leadership, the Zanzibar House of Representatives and the great people of Zanzibar shall continue to benefit a great deal.

I continue to pay close attention to the work of the Zanzibar House of Representatives just like I have done with other Parliaments in the region. I am pleased that your Members under your stewardship continue to afford the people of Zanzibar vast opportunities to understand how the House of Representatives works and in so doing reap from the benefits. I am pleased that the House of Representatives has in the recent past opened its doors and avenues through which petitions (Maombi ya Wananchi) are channeled. This is a sign of commitment by the House of Representatives to ensuring that the wishes and aspirations of the citizens it serves are taken into consideration.

I am confident that under your leadership style and political philosophy, the Zanzibar House of Representatives will make significant achievements and that its role as the Legislative, Oversight and Representative body, shall continue to be strengthened.

Over the last few days, we have discussed how EALA and Zanzibar House of Representatives can forge closer working relationship for the benefit of our two sister Institutions. We shall continue to devise avenues by which the Zanzibar House of Representatives 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.

Since the relations between the Zanzibar House of Representatives and EALA are very warm, they can be nurtured even further by finding a working formula of further and deeper collaboration.

Both EALA and the Zanzibar House of Representatives can indeed learn from each other and collectively build and strengthen ties further to reinforce the Community.

EALA and Zanzibar House of Representatives are institutions of democratization, with comparable and related mandates and functions. Experience shows that strong parliamentary institutions strengthen governance systems and regional integration processes.

EALA and Zanzibar House of Representatives can and should also explore avenues for staff across the departments to learn and benefit from each other's experiences. At the moment, the websites of EALA and the Zanzibar House of Representatives are linked and the respective portals have greatly assisted in information dissemination and enhancing linkages.

This very gesture of accommodating EALA in the precincts of the House of Representatives over the plenary period, portends a strong statement of cordiality and one of pure friendship. We as EALA are truly grateful for the spirit of friendship and look forward to strengthening and solidifying the relations even further.

We are already enjoying very much the precincts of Zanzibar House of Representatives, which not only has a modern Chamber and several offices, but also a combination of Zanzibari architecture and modern construction.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I extend to you my unreserved support and wish you every success in the coming years. With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my friend and colleague, the Rt. Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives to make his remarks.

Karibu Mheshimiwa Spika!