



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**REMARKS BY RT. HON NGOGA K. MARTIN, SPEAKER OF EALA
(DELIVERED BY HON ABDIKADIR ADEN, CHAIR OF GPC) AT
THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING
WORKSHOP ON MTEF BUDGETING AND AUDIT PROCESSES**

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

**The Deputy Secretary General, EAC, Hon Jesca Eriyo
(represented by XXXXX)**

Colleagues, Hon Members of EALA

Lead facilitators

Clerk and staff of the Assembly

First and foremost, congratulations all following the very successful Plenary and all attendant achievements realized last week. I hope you all had a restful weekend and are gearing-up for this key week-long capacity building workshop on Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), accounts and the audit processes.

At the outset, I thank the EAC Secretariat for their collaboration in putting together this important workshop. I thank the outgoing DSG F&A, Hon Jesca Eriyo (represented here by XXX) for gracing the

occasion. I am grateful to Hon Eriyo, for what has been truly her consistent nature in relating with the Assembly. Please pass our regards to the outgoing DSG and wish her well in her every future endeavor.

HON MEMBERS, this workshop is crucial and timely. As you may be aware, the Assembly as part of its core function as stipulated in Article 134 of the Treaty for the EAC, annually receives the EAC Report on Audited Accounts from the Council of Ministers for debate, consultations and other actions as may be deemed necessary. The workshop will therefore induct us and adequately equip us with what it takes in order to effectively undertake our mandate.

I am informed that EAC adopted the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) in its budgeting process about 7 years ago. The MTEF allocates resources based on the priorities and ensures that these apportionments are consistent with the objectives of the organization. This is a good model for planning and implementation of activities of the Community.

This capacity building workshop therefore presents an opportune moment for us to be able to harness understanding of the technical workings of the EAC MTEF budgeting and to comprehend processes that go on in the auditing processes. Interesting topics include; Overview of Public Expenditure and Financial Management Reforms, the Accountability process as well as the technical and political review of the Audit Commission Report. We are also looking forward to receiving feedback on the gaps in the Budget ACT, 2008 which will serve as fodder to the Assembly, should it deem it fit, to amend the ACT in future.

HON MEMBERS, I am particularly keen on the issue of Accountability. This is perhaps one of the areas we must put our total sight, fingers and focus on. As the oversight body of the EAC, we should be absolutely accountable to the citizens of EAC. In order to do so, effectively, let us as EALA similarly embrace self-introspection. I am pleased that Mr. Michael Baingana will also be sharing experiences on this key subject matter.

I have taken a quick cursory look at the programme and find it to be rather detailed and comprehensive. The Lead facilitators are also persons of experience and high standing. I am therefore sure we shall benefit a great deal and urge all Members to give total concentration to the process as is our usual practice.

HON MEMBERS, finally, I take the opportunity to thank all our facilitators in advance for their worthwhile contribution to knowledge and to wish all fruitful deliberations.

With these few remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite the Deputy Secretary General to make some remarks.

I thank you for your kind attention.