



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY BY RT HON NGOGA KAROLI MARTIN,
SPEAKER OF EALA (DELIVERED BY HON FATUMA IBRAHIM ALI) AT THE
43RD SADC-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION -
LUANDA, ANGOLA – JUNE 25TH 2018**

**H.E João Manuel Goncalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of
Angola,**

**Rt Hon Fernando Da Piedade Dias Dos Santos, President of the SADC
Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) & Speaker of the National Assembly of
Angola;**

The Hon Members of the SADC -PF and other invited Parliaments;

Ministers and senior officials of the Government of Angola present

The Secretary General of SADC-PF;

Distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen;

I convey to you all warm greetings from the Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Rt Hon Ngoga Karoli Martin, who was expected to join you, but

regrettably is unable to do so, due to other exigencies of duty. He has therefore duly requested me to represent him here.

I am pleased, humbled and honoured to deliver this solidarity message at the commencement of the 43rd Plenary of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. I take the singular opportunity to congratulate and to thank H.E. **João Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola for your leadership and to wish Your Excellency the very best in your endeavour to take this great republic to higher heights. I thank the President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum who is also Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola, for inviting EALA to this important Sitting. Permit me also to express my gratitude to the Government, the National Assembly of Angola, as well as to all citizens of this great Republic, for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation and I since our arrival here in the beautiful city of Luanda.

Distinguished Honourable guests;

Allow me at this juncture to congratulate the SADC-PF for the strong case it is putting forward towards its transformation into a SADC Regional Parliament. We join SADC-PF in calling upon the Member States to support this crucial and long overdue transformation. Out of experience at EALA, legislative powers remain a great thing if well harnessed. EALA stands with you fully on this and will always avail herself should you need support.

Evidently, Africa requires strong institutions at this point in time and in the future to steer her to the much-cherished unity and prosperity of a united continent. EALA would like to fully associate itself with the SADC-PF towards looking into all aspects relating to the establishment of a strong regional Parliament. We believe that together, we can transform Regional Economic Communities (RECs) into one United African bloc in the near future for the common good of all people of Africa.

Our co-operation should therefore be viewed as building blocks from which we can draw vital lessons.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I congratulate the SADC Parliamentary Forum upon development and adoption of this key theme on **“Deepening SADC Economic Integration through Industrialisation – the Role of Parliament”** at this important congregation.

Industrialisation is a key component in the development of our regions. Essentially, Africa can take vital steps in industrialization and this calls upon countries to insist on trade and investment agreements that spur industrialization. I am pleased that many countries in the continent are committed to promote coordination and harmonization of policies to fast-track establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), which aims to deepen continental integration. Primarily, the AfCFTA, which was signed by 44 African States in Kigali, Rwanda, recently, will go a long way towards boosting intra-African trade and its industrial content. Essentially, the Continent must as a necessity, remove all Non-Tariff Barriers on goods and related to services, to smoothen the mega-regional trade agreement, promote development and spur industrialization.

As Parliaments, we are the representatives and therefore, the voice of the people and with a central responsibility to enact legislation, representation, pass budgets and hold our governments to account. To successfully realize industrialization of the SADC region, political will and commitment are fundamental. I therefore encourage Member States’ Parliaments and the SADC-PF to rise to the occasion and to ensure all commitments of the Partner States to the objectives of the SADC are fully realized.

Excellencies, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The process of African integration calls for sustained dialogue, collaboration, confidence building and learning between and among Members. I want to emphasise that complementarity and not competition is the way to keep such dialogue alive.

Therefore, as I conclude, I wish to assure you and your Parliament of EALA's readiness and commitment to work with you in partnership as we strive to achieve both regional and continental integration.

Finally, I wish you fruitful deliberations during the entire period.

Long live Angola, long live SADC, Long Live EAC, long live African Union and long live the African People!!!

I thank you all for your kind attention.....**OBRIGADO!**