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**REPORT OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLIES/PARLIAMENTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PARTNER
STATES AND THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON
29TH APRIL 2016
AT THE MOUNT MERU HOTEL IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

**SECRETARIAT OF
THE BUREAU OF
EAC SPEAKERS**

APRIL, 2016

1.0 BACKGROUND

The meeting of the EAC Speakers of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the East African Community took place at the Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha in Tanzania. The meeting was convened under the auspices the EAC Speakers Bureau.

The EAC Speakers Bureau was established in 2008 with a mandate to establish a functional working relationship between and among the Speakers of the EAC Partner States and EALA with a view to enhancing the role of the respective National Assemblies/Parliaments in the EAC integration agenda.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The 11th Meeting of the Bureau of Speakers of the National Assemblies/ Parliaments of the East African Community was a follow up of the 10th Meeting of the Speakers held in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania on 24th April 2015.

The meeting was attended by: Rt. Hon. Job Ndugai, Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania; Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi, EGH, MP, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly; Rt. Hon. Senator Ekwee Ethuro, EGH, Speaker of the Kenya Senate; Hon. Jeanne d’Arc Uwimanimpaye, Deputy Speaker of the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies; Hon. Edouard Nduwimana , 2nd Deputy Speaker of Burundi National Assembly; Rt. Hon. Révérien Ndikuriyo, President of the Burundi Senate and Rt. Hon. Daniel F. Kidega, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.

3.0 CONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau of EAC Speakers,

"For the purpose of quorum, a meeting of the Bureau shall be properly constituted when either:

- a) Members from at least three Partner States and the Assembly are present; or*
- b) Members from at least four Partner States are present".*

The Rt. Hon. Speakers/Presidents of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the EAC Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Legislative Assembly being present, the Bureau was therefore properly constituted.

In accordance with Rule 5 (2) of the Bureau, the Chairmanship of the Bureau is held in rotation, and in accordance with the decision of the 10th Meeting of the Speakers Bureau, therefore, the Chairmanship of the Bureau 2016 should be handed over by the United Republic of Tanzania to the East African Legislative Assembly.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Rt. Hon. Daniel F. Kidega, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Prayer
2. Constitution of the Bureau
 - Check for quorum
 - Handover of the Chair
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Welcoming Remarks by the Chairperson
5. Remarks by the outgoing Chairperson
6. Statements by the Rt. Hon. Speakers/Presidents
6. Consideration of matters arising out of the Report of the 10th Meeting of the Speakers
7. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Speakers Forum
8. The hosting of the East African Parliamentary Institute
9. Review of the mandate of the Bureau
10. Topics for discussion during the Bureau meeting:
 - (a) Emerging challenges for Speakers: Multiparty Chambers and minority or coalition governments
 - (b) The role of the Speaker in maintaining discipline and decorum in the House
11. Any Other Business

5.0 WELCOME REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

RT. HON. DANIEL F. KIDEGA - SPEAKER OF THE EALA

The Rt. Hon. Speaker extended a warm welcome to the Speakers to United Republic of Tanzania, in particular to the EALA Headquarter, Arusha. He thanked the Speakers for their attendance and participation in the 11th meeting of the EAC Speakers Forum and welcomed the new Speakers to the Bureau. Consequently, he acknowledged apologies from the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga.

The Speaker was pleased to be a Member of the Bureau of Speakers having assumed office sixteen (16) months ago and thanked the Bureau for entrusting him with the Chairmanship of the Bureau of Speakers. He commended the outgoing Chair, Rt. Hon Job Ndugai for guidance, expressed his appreciation to the EALA Speaker *Emeritus*, Rt, Hon Abdirahin Abdi and other predecessors for the role played in the establishment of the Bureau of Speakers leading to the inaugural meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2008.

He stated that the Bureau made enormous contribution in strengthening the role of EAC Parliaments in the integration process in line with Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. He extended his appreciation to all Speakers of all the National Assemblies and Senates for the support extended to EALA during the Plenary Sittings in the respective Parliaments.

He informed the Bureau that since January 2015, EALA realized steady progress, noting that the Assembly passed ten (10) Bills, sixteen (16) Resolutions and considered twenty six (26) reports among other developments. The next Sitting of the Assembly is expected to be held in Arusha on May 23rd – June 3rd, 2016.

He highlighted that during the period 2015 - 2016 EALA undertook the following activities successfully:-

- (i) The 9th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki IX Series) was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on March 2nd - 4th, 2016 under the theme: *"Compliance with the African Union and Sub-Regional Blocs' Election Benchmarks: the case of the EAC,"*.
- (ii) Conducted citizen's sensitization program in March and April 2016, which targeted the civil society, private sector, women and youth groups and Parliaments in fulfillment of one of the operational principles of the Community; that of *"people-centeredness"*. Phase 2 of the same will commence after the EALA resumes its Sittings.
- (iii) The EALA Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution held a Public Hearing Workshop with regards to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Burundi, aimed to establish the facts as reported by a petition presented to Speaker, EALA on the subject matter prepared by the Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU), the East Africa Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOFF), Atrocities Watch Africa, Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union, East Africa Law Society (EALS) and the Kituo Cha Katiba (KcK).
- (iv) The 6th Inter-Parliamentary Games Tournament was held in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2015. In summary, the teams won the disciplines as follows:
 - Soccer – EALA
 - Netball – Parliament of Uganda
 - Tug of War (Men) – Parliament of Kenya
 - Tug of War (Women)- Parliament of Kenya
 - Athletics – Overall trophy - Parliament of Kenya

- Men – Parliament of Kenya
- Women – Parliament of Rwanda
- Volleyball – Men -Parliament of Kenya
- Volleyball - Women - Parliament of Rwanda
- Golf – Parliament of Kenya
- Overall Trophy - Kenya

He appreciated the Rt. Hon Donatille Mukabalisa and the Parliament of Rwanda for the exceptional hosting of the games and stated that the games were an integral part of the close collaboration between the Parliaments. The Speaker indicated that the Assembly received requests to broaden the sports disciplines to include swimming, marathon and indoor Board games.

The Speaker informed the Bureau that EALA is a member of the EAC Elections Observation Mission (EOM) and plays a key role as an observer during Parliamentary Elections in the region and have been observing elections in all the Partner States. He noted that Parliamentary elections have by and large been democratic, contributing to the consolidation of democracy in EAC.

He noted that in 2015, new Members were elected to the Parliaments of Burundi and Tanzania and in year 2016, citizens of Uganda elected their representatives to the Parliament of Uganda. He asserted that the Bureau expected citizens of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda to go through the same democratic process of giving their representatives fresh mandate.

He informed the Bureau that EALA passed the EAC Elections Act, 2012, which envisages formation of the EAC Elections Board whose function *inter alia* include: developing, setting standards and advising Partner States on best electoral practices. The Board's mandate is to harmonise electoral standards to be adhered to by the National Electoral Commissions, noting that this is a fundamental contribution by EALA towards strengthening electoral processes in the region as a way to consolidating democracy.

He noted that the tenure of the 3rd Assembly ends on June 4, 2017, during the same period the Speaker shall be handing over the Chairmanship of the Bureau and observed that the 4th Assembly will be new as most Members will be retiring, having served the mandatory two terms while others may drop off due to the process of natural attrition. Subsequently, the Republic of South Sudan shall for the first time also elect representatives to the regional Assembly.

He expressed gratitude to the Parliaments under the leadership of the Bureau Members for sending individuals of high caliber to EALA, who are believers in the integration process and participate adequately and called upon the Speakers to continue guiding their Parliaments in order to realize a successful process in the election/nomination of Members to the EALA.

The Speaker commended the Bureau for its initiative and desire to establish a regional Parliamentary Institute, which will provide a forum for training Members of Parliament and staff

in matters of Parliamentary practice to widen and deepen interaction. In addition, the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) Bill, 2011 was assented to by the Heads of State and that the Council of Ministers has agreed to the operationalization of the Act.

The Speaker highlighted that the Summit of the EAC on its 17th Ordinary Meeting held in Arusha on March 2, 2016, resolved that H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli shall be the Chairperson of the Summit for a period of one year, the Republic of South Sudan be admitted into the EAC, Hon. Liberat Mfumukeko was appointed as the new Secretary General of the EAC replacing Hon. Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera and a new International East African E-Passport was launched.

The Speaker further highlighted that EALA was experiencing some financial challenges due to the fact that donor component had drastically reduced remittance. However, to cushion the aspect, EAC sought for an Alternate Financing Model (Alternate Financing mechanism) in which Partner States were to contribute a portion of their annual tax collection.

He appealed to the Rt. Hon. Speakers to impress upon their respective Governments on the necessity to ensure time remittances of funds to EAC to enable it carry out its planned activities.

In conclusion, the Speaker congratulated Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga for exceptional leadership she offered at the helm of the Assembly and the achievements made during her tenure. He stressed that Rt. Hon. Kadaga diligently served the Parliament of Uganda and fervently supported the Speakers' Bureau and wished her well in her future endeavour. *(The full Speech is attached as Annex I)*

6.0 REMARKS BY THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

REMARKS BY RT. HON. JOB YUSTINO NDUGAI THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON AND SPEAKER, PARLIAMENT OF TANZANIA

The Speaker extended a warm welcome to the Speakers, all participants and stated that he was happy to attend the Bureau meeting since his election as Speaker in November, 2015. He informed the Bureau that he attended the official ceremony of South Sudan accession into the EAC in Dar es Salaam, and had an opportunity to exchange views with H. E. Salva Kiir, President of the Republic of South Sudan, thus he welcomes the Republic of South Sudan to EAC and in particular to EALA.

He asserted that the United Republic of Tanzania was making great strides in its role as an active Member of EAC and EALA and observed that H. E. John Magufuli and his Rwanda Counterpart H.E. Paul Kagame, inaugurated a one stop border post on the 6th April, 2016, which is an important milestone towards facilitating Regional Trade and deepening EAC integration.

He informed the Speakers that 11th Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania was in its 3rd Meeting and seventy percent (70%) of its members are from the ruling party while thirty percent (30%) are from the Opposition. He further, stated that the women representation is about thirty six percent (36%).

In conclusion, he pledged his support to EALA and other EAC members state Parliaments collectively and individually. ***(The full Speech is attached as Annex II)***

7.0 STATEMENTS BY SPEAKERS/PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES/PARLIAMENTS

7.1 HON. REVIRIEN NDIKURIYO – PRESIDENT OF THE BURUNDI SENATE

The Hon. Révérien Ndikuriyo noted that he was elated to make his maiden attendance to the Meeting of Speakers of East African Community and expressed his gratitude to his Tanzanian counterpart for his warm welcome.

He highlighted concerns following a perception that has been created by International media emanating from a move to reject the candidature of President Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term by the opposition and the civil society, and which culminated into violence. He termed this reports as slanderous hype which are a part of an international conspiracy to destabilize Burundi.

He further noted that there had been an attempted coup in May, 2015, which was later foiled and the perpetrators forced to flee the country. He assured the forum that there had been considerable efforts to restore peace and security and that the achieved results had been satisfactory. He further reported that Burundians who had fled the country, were now returning to the country voluntarily, save for a few.

He thanked EAC for the support and respect for the right of the people of Burundi in electing their leaders, while choosing to preserve the sovereignty of their states. He observed that though Western Countries had urged the African Union to consider the deployment of a military force in Burundi, this proposal been rejected by the African Union. In light of this, he noted that external interference had led to the destruction of states such as Libya, Iraq and Syria, an attempt that Burundi had rejected.

On terrorism, Hon. Ndikuriyo noted that terrorism had continued to cause enormous damage and pain to the world. He asserted the position of Burundi that there are no 'good' and 'bad' terrorists, and that all terrorists have to be fought ferociously. He thus challenged his EAC counterparts to stand together in solidarity as the destiny of the Community is well within the community. He further urged for Community states, to support the Government of Burundi in pursuit of its push for lifting of 'unjust sanctions' against the government of Burundi. He further urged the EAC Member states help curb the involvement of the youth in violence and acts of terrorism, by attracting investors and hence create jobs for the youth. ***(The full Speech is attached as Annex III)***

7.2 HON. EDOUARD NDUWIMANA, 2ND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE BURUNDI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON BEHALF OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BURUNDI RT. HON. PASCAL NYABENDA

He extended his appreciation to the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome and thanked the Bureau for extending an invitation. Congratulated the Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai for his election as the Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

He thanked the Partner states for standing with Burundi during the post-election conflict. He commended the Head of State of the EAC Partner States for their solidarity and their refusal to endorse an African Mission for Prevention and Protection force to Burundi.

He noted that Burundi election were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and the Electoral Code. He noted that a majority of the citizens have internalized democratic values hence participated in large of numbers and observed that following the conflict, Burundi is implementing the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation signed in August, 2000 and made tremendous progress in the peace process. He informed the meeting that the Government of Burundi established a National Commission for Inter-Burundian Dialogue which has embraced dialogue in order to find a sustainable lasting solution.

He noted that Burundi is facing financial challenges due economic sanctions imposed by the European Union and appealed to the EAC Partner States to beseech for the lifting of the sanction. In conclusion, he affirmed that Burundi was ready to put in place all legislation required for the success of the EAC integration and promote inter-parliamentary co-operation.
(The full Speech is attached as Annex IV)

7.3 REMARKS BY THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, EGH, MP, SPEAKER OF THE KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly commended the Bureau for meeting regularly to deliberate on important matters facing the Legislatures in the region and thanked the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm hospitality extended to delegation. The Speaker congratulated the partner states of Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania for holding general elections in the past one year. He noted that the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Parliament of Burundi, elected new Speakers. He welcomed and congratulated the new Speakers of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rt. Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai, Burundi Senate, Hon. Révérien Ndikuriyo and Burundi National Assembly Rt. Hon. Pascal Nyabenda. In addition, the Speaker wished Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda success in her campaigns to be the next Speaker.

The Speaker recalled that the 10th meeting of Bureau held in Dar es Salaam in April 2015, where various issues were deliberated and agreed upon, noted that the Bureau would evaluate progress made in the achievement of resolutions agreed upon. He further, highlighted that the meeting took place at a time when East African region expected its leadership to consolidate strategies aimed at ensuring sustained economic growth, peace, security and social cohesion

as well as tackling unemployment. He noted that EAC Parliaments are faced with the challenge of ensuring that there is proper oversight to guarantee that the resources available utilized and misappropriation is eradicated. He encouraged partner states to labour in order to stimulate industrial growth, education, science and technology as well as strengthen major sectors like tourism and trade and also take lead in environmental conservation.

He noted that the forum offers an opportunity to enhance experience sharing and strengthen EAC member state relations. The Hon. Speaker, further commended the Republic of Rwanda for successfully hosting the Inter-Parliamentary Games in December, 2015. He noted that the Republic of South Sudan signed the Treaty of Accession in the EAC on 15th April, 2016 and therefore congratulated and welcomed the Republic of South Sudan for joining the East Africa Community. He observed that the integration process was on track as the region continued to grow both in geographical size and economic strength, that within a relatively short time since the establishment of EAC, the community has realized tremendous progress in regional co-operation and development. He further noted that it was vital for the region to modernize and revamp infrastructure, information and communication systems and power supply in order for the region to flourish.

In his concluding remarks, he raised concerns that there was need for the Community to align national political activities and trends with regional integration objectives, deeper integration and rapid socio-economic transformation in order to sustain political federation. Noting that there was need to foster friendly relations and establishment of mechanisms for management of common resources among Partner States. ***(The full Speech is attached as Annex V)***

7.4 REMARKS BY THE RT. HON. SEN. EKWEE ETHURO, EGH, MP, SPEAKER OF THE SENATE OF KENYA

The Speaker commended the outgoing chair for the good work and also for relinquishing his seat. He congratulated the Chair, Rt. Hon. Daniel Kidega on election to the Chair of the Bureau and promised his support. He commended decision of meeting of Speakers held in Dar es Salaam to amend the Rules of the Bureau to include Bicameral Legislatures in its membership. He expressed his gratitude to the EAC Partner States for embracing the bicameralism system of Parliament in the region and enshrining the same in the EAC Treaty.

He informed the meeting, that he was elected as one of the six Vice-Presidents of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) representing the East African region and noted that there was need for the African region to address critical issues with regards to elections and their aftermath. He highlighted that Kenya was preparing for elections in 2017 and cognizant of the fact that many crises in the region surround elections based violent acts which are becoming instruments of insecurity, therefore, they must confront the challenges being faced by the region. He stressed the need for the region to act as brothers keepers and find lasting solution. He appealed to the Bureau to assist Burundi to foster peace and reconciliation.

In his concluding remark, he commended South Sudan for joining the EAC Partner States and look forward to their participation in the meetings of the Forum.

7.5 HON. UWIMANIMPAYE JEANNE D'ARC – DEPUTY SPEAKER, RWANDA CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

The Speaker thanked the United Republic of Tanzania, People of Tanzania, EALA and the Secretariat of EAC for the warm welcome and hospitality. She congratulated the newly elected speakers and welcomed them to the Bureau.

The Speaker informed the meeting that Rwanda was celebrating the 22nd commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi whereby more than one million of innocent people were killed and infrastructure totally destroyed and cited that the Rwandan Government was making more effort to ensure peace and security prevail in the region.

She commended the Bureau and EAC Speakers for the efforts made towards the achievement of the regional integration and co-operation. She noted that Rwanda had made tremendous progress since it joined the EAC in 2007 and the Country is already reaping benefits of being part of the East African Community. She informed the meeting that Rwanda had embarked on policy to facilitate free movement of people, goods and services by removing all barriers that hindered trade within East Africans.

She highlighted that it was important to deal with the issues of terrorism which is a major problem facing EAC Partner States. She urged the East African Community (EAC) to urgently come up with drastic measures to jointly counter terrorism in the region. She remarked that the government of Rwanda commends the efforts of several regional and international organizations and leaders including the African Union, the East African Community, the United Nations and the European Union and shall continue to work with the region and the international community to support peace.

She commended the Bureau for creating an opportunity for the Parliament to assess the achievement made, share experience and challenges facing Speakers in their duty as the Speakers. *(The full Speech is attached as Annex VI)*

8.0 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF EAC SPEAKERS (AS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF CLERKS)

8.1 Arising from Agenda Item "8.0" Establishment of the Bureau of Speakers as an Organ of the Community:-

The Meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, EAC Speakers Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows -

- (i) The Secretariat submitted the Concept Paper to National Parliaments/Assemblies for review, vide the letter of Clerk of the EALA of 5th September 2014.
- (ii) The Kenya National Assembly reported that a Concept Paper was received and submitted to the Committee on Regional Integration for comments.

- (iii) The Rwanda Chamber of Deputies reported that it received the Concept Note and submitted it to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Security for scrutiny and comments. The comments would include further justifications for the Speakers Bureau to constitute an Organ of the Community.
- (iv) The Parliament of Uganda reported that it received the Concept Note and that it has been submitted to the Committee on East African Community Affairs for review and scrutiny. A detailed report will be given in the next Forum.
- (v) The Parliament of Tanzania reported that the Concept Note was received and it is still working on the matter.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then resolved/decided:-

All National Assemblies/Parliaments should finalize the review of the Concept Note sent out by the Secretariat of the Bureau, and submit their respective comments on the paper to the Secretariat by the end of July 2015.

The Bureau took note of the following progress on the matter:

- (i) The Secretariat has not received any comments from the National Assemblies/Parliaments on the Concept Note to date.
- (ii) The Republics of Uganda, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania were not able to consider the Concept Note due to the electioneering process.
- (iii) The Republic of Rwanda received the Concept Note and referred it to the relevant Committee, which is still considering.
- (iv) The Republic of Kenya did not submit a comprehensive report on the Concept Note as earlier on indicated.
- (v) All National Assemblies/Parliaments undertook to submit comprehensive reports at the next meeting of the Forum.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

All National Assemblies/Parliaments should submit their comments on the Concept Note to the Secretariat by end of August 2016.

8.2 Arising from Agenda Item "8.1." Functional Relations between National Assemblies/Parliaments and EALA-

The Meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, EAC Speakers Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

1. Burundi has not harmonized the Rules of Procedure, but the review process is ongoing.
2. The network of parliamentary staff did not take place in November 2014 as planned due to overlap of activities.
3. After consideration of many factors including budgetary issues and scheduled activities, the Forum agreed that the network of parliamentary staff workshop takes place from 26th - 29th August, 2015 in the Republic of Uganda. EALA was tasked to send out invitation letters and asking National Assemblies/Parliaments to propose topics for discussion.
4. The Parliaments/National Assemblies have got budget lines to sponsor attendance of their participants.
5. The Parliaments/National Assemblies have continued to play their oversight role on matters on EAC Affairs in their respective jurisdictions including the need to expedite amendments to the EAC Treaty. EALA was requested to communicate all that they require from Partner States National Assemblies/Parliaments on amendments to the Treaty.
6. EALA reported that the meeting scheduled to engage the Attorneys General, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers on the proposed amendments to the Treaty did not take place due to the leadership challenges EALA was facing at the time. The Bureau requested the EALA to share with National Assemblies/Parliaments proposals submitted to the EAC Council of Ministers.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then resolved/decided:-

- (i) EALA to send out invitation letters for the first workshop of the network of senior parliamentary officers and ask National Assemblies/Parliaments to propose topics for discussion during the workshop.
- (ii) EALA to communicate all that it requires from the Partner States National Assemblies/Parliaments on the amendments to the Treaty by 8th May 2015.
- (iii) EALA to share the proposed amendments to the Treaty that it submitted to the EAC Council of Ministers with National Assemblies/Parliaments.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (i) The Republic of Burundi has amended its Rules of Procedure to cater for the consideration of EALA Business.
- (ii) The Republic of Uganda and Kenya submitted topics for discussion. The workshop for the Senior Parliamentary Officers Network took place from 28th August to 1st September 2015 in Kampala Uganda. (*Report of the workshop hereto attached*).
- (iii) Copies of the proposed amendments to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community forwarded to National Assemblies/Parliaments vide the letter of the Clerk of the Assembly of 29th April 2015.
- (iv) The Republic of Kenya has accepted to host the next workshop for Senior Parliamentary Staff in September 2016.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

That all National Assemblies/Parliaments to submit their comments on the proposed amendments to the Treaty to the Secretariat by end of August 2016.

8.3 Arising from Agenda Item "8.2" Annual EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games

The Meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, EAC Speakers Bureau took note of the progress as follows:

1. The East African Legislative Assembly successfully hosted the 2014 EAC Inter-Parliamentary tournament from 6th - 12th December 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania.
2. The games were expanded beyond netball and football. They included athletics and tug-of-war.
3. Four National Assemblies/Parliaments of the EAC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) participated. Uganda was the winner in football while in netball, Tanzania took back the Trophy.
4. A new football trophy was purchased for the tournament.
5. EALA was commended for the successful hosting of the tournament in December 2014.
6. Rwanda re-confirmed its ability and willingness to host the tournament from 1st - 11th December, 2015.

7. Noted that the EAC Inter-Parliamentary tournament scheduled to take place in Rwanda would precede the Annual National Dialogue.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then resolved/decided:-

All National Assemblies/Parliaments to: -

- (i) Always adhere to the rules of the games.
- (ii) Foster the spirit of integration by briefing Members of National Assemblies/Parliaments before engaging in the games.
- (iii) Prohibit professional players from participation in parliamentary games.
- (iv) Expand the number of sports events in the games to include games like golf and volleyball.
- (v) EALA to share with the Bureau and all National Assemblies/Parliaments the Rules of the games.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) Rules were adhered to.
- (ii) Pre-tournament conference was held on 4th December 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda to foster the spirit of integration.
- (iii) No professional player was reported to have participated in the tournament.
- (iv) Golf and Volleyball were introduced.
- (v) The Rt. Hon. Speaker, EALA vide his letter dated 12th November 2015, forwarded to all Speakers the Rules of the Games.
- (vi) Parliament of Kenya confirmed to host the next Inter-Parliamentary games in December 2016.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. To commend the Parliament of Rwanda for successfully organizing and hosting the tournament.
2. The Pre-tournament conference should always precede the tournament.

3. To appreciate the Parliament of Kenya for accepting to host the next Inter-Parliamentary games in December 2016.
4. To appeal to all National Assemblies/Parliaments to endeavour to participate in the games.
5. To take note of the invitation by the Parliament of Kenya to all Speakers/Presidents to participate in person in the forthcoming games in Kenya.

8.4 Arising from Agenda Item "8.4" Resolution on Removal of NTBs

The Meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, EAC Speakers Bureau took note of the progress as follows:

1. The Secretariat re-submitted a model Resolution on NTBs to all Parliaments/National Assemblies vide letter Ref: EALA/STP/18 on 9th September 2014.
2. The National Assemblies/Parliaments of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania adopted the Resolution on NTBs. The National Assembly of Burundi was not present and therefore there was no progress report.
3. The East African Legislative Assembly passed the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill, 2015 during its 5th Meeting of the 3rd Session in March 2015 and is now in the process of Assent.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then resolved/decided:-

- (i) The bureaucracy involved in the process of assenting to Bills passed by EALA.
- (ii) The appeal by EALA to the Bureau to assist on matters of assent to Bills.
- (iii) The need to place an obligation on the Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs in the process of assent to EAC Bills passed by EALA.
- (iv) The delay in assenting to Bills passed by EALA and urged EALA to explore ways of resolving the matter.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) EALA submitted a proposal to the Summit of the EAC Heads of State to assent to Bills on the side lines of the meetings of the Summit.
- (ii) The Summit agreed to assent to Bills that had been submitted to the Partner States within three months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Summit.

- (iii) The appreciation of the Speaker of EALA to the Rt. Hon. Speakers for the role they played in the matter.

8.5 Arising from Agenda Item "7.0 Proposed Dates for the next meeting of the Bureau"

The meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows: -

- (i) In accordance with Rule 5, the Bureau elected the United Republic of Tanzania to be the Chairperson of the Bureau.
- (ii) The next meeting of the Bureau will be held in February 2015 in the United Republic of Tanzania.
- (iii) Decided that EALA will be the next Chairperson of the Bureau after the United Republic of Tanzania.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then resolved/decided:-

- (i) The United Republic of Tanzania took the Chair.
- (ii) The meeting of the Bureau did not take place in February 2015 as decided because after consultations, the Secretariat discovered that some Members of the Bureau were not available then.
- (iii) To Congratulate Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega for his election as the fourth Speaker of EALA and welcomed him to the Bureau.
- (iv) The next meeting of the Bureau would be hosted by EALA on a date to be communicated.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) The meeting of the Bureau took place on 24th April 2015 in Dar-es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania.
- (ii) The next meeting of the Bureau took place in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania on 29th April 2016.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. To commend the outgoing Chairperson of the Bureau for his leadership and organizing the 10th Meeting of the Bureau.

2. To express appreciation to the Rt. Hon. Speaker of EALA for hosting the 11th meeting of the Bureau.
3. Approved the proposal for the meetings of the Bureau to take place in the last week of April annually.

8.6 Arising from Agenda Item "8.0 Framework for enhancing linkages between EALA and National Assemblies/Parliaments"

(a) Pre-determined period or month within which EAC National Assemblies/Parliaments play host to EALA's annual rotational meetings.

The meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

1. The EALA Commission would convene its Annual Planning Meeting from 26th - 30th August 2015 and draw up a comprehensive annual work plan for EALA the Financial Year 2015/2016 and set the dates for the meetings of EALA in the Partner States.
2. The National Assemblies/Parliaments would be dully notified accordingly.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then noted as follows:-

1. The EALA Commission convened, drew up a programme, notified the National Assemblies/Parliaments and meetings took place in the Partner States as follows:

(i) 1 st Meeting: Kampala	-	16 th - 28 th August 2015
(ii) 2 nd Meeting: Nairobi	-	4 th - 15 th October 2015
(iii) 3 rd Meeting: Kigali	-	22 nd Nov - 10 th December 2015
(iv) 4 th Meeting: Arusha	-	24 th January - 5 th February 2015
(v) 5 th Meeting: Dar-es-Salaam	-	6 th - 18 th March 2015
(vi) 6 th Meeting: Arusha	-	22 nd May - 3 rd June 2015

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) The appreciation by EALA to the National Assemblies/Parliaments for continuously accepting to host EALA sessions in their National Assemblies/Parliaments.
- (ii) That the EALA Commission will convene in June 2016 to draw up its annual work plan for the year 2016/2017 for meetings in Partner States and to notify the National Assemblies/Parliaments accordingly.
- (iii) That the following dates were convenient for the National Assemblies/Parliaments to host EALA rotational meetings:

- The Republic of Uganda - January/May
- The United Republic of Tanzania - July/ August/September
- The Republic of Kenya - September
- The Republic of Burundi - September
- The Republic of Rwanda - September/October/November

(iv) That the National Assemblies/Parliaments will share with the EALA Commission their calendars of activities for each year so that the Commission can plan for rotational meetings.

(b) EALA Sensitization Programmes in Partner States

The 10th meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015 recalled progress on the matter as follows:

1. The 8th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki VIII) took place in Kigali, Rwanda on 31st October - 2nd November 2014.
2. The sensitization programme did not take place in Uganda due to the leadership challenges that EALA faced at the time.
3. The new EALA Commission was working out new and more practical strategies on sensitization programmes. The modalities would be worked on by EALA and the respective Partner State National Assemblies/Parliaments.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers then took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

1. The 9th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki IX) took place in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania from 2nd - 5th March 2016.
2. The appreciation of EALA to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting, the Vice President for opening and the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania for gracing the occasion.
3. The EALA Commission approved a program for sensitization to take place in two phases. The first phase took place from 3rd – 23rd April 2016 in all Partner States simultaneously, and the second phase will be undertaken in June 2016.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. The 10th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki X) will take place in Kenya on a date to be communicated.

2. To take note of the communication from EALA that EALA will also undertake activities to mark its 15th Anniversary concurrent with Nanyuki X seminar and the Inter-Parliamentary games.

(c) Representation from the relevant Committees on National Assemblies/Parliaments during Committee Sensitization/Public Hearing activities

The meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows: -

Relevant Committees of National Assemblies/Parliaments are always invited as one of the major stakeholders whenever an EALA Committee conducts Public Hearings in Partner States. The Bureau implored EALA to always provide sufficient notice to the relevant Committees of National Assemblies/Parliaments in respect of public hearings.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then decided as follows:-

EALA should always provide sufficient notice to the relevant Committees of National Assemblies/Parliaments in respect of public hearings.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

EALA always gives sufficient notice to the relevant committees of the National Assemblies/Parliaments, in respect of public hearings, as per the requirements of the EAC Rules of Procedure.

(d) Possibility of full participation of National MPs during Nanyuki meetings held in a hosting Partner State.

The meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows: -

1. All Members of Rwanda Parliament were invited to attend the Nanyuki VIII Seminar which took place in November 2014.
2. In consultation with the host Parliament, all Members of Parliament of the hosting Parliament shall if possible, be invited for the subsequent seminars.
3. EALA undertook to submit copies of Resolutions immediately after the Inter-Parliamentary Seminars.
4. EALA to communicate Resolution of the Nanyuki VIII to National Assemblies/Parliaments and notify Partner States.

In consideration of the above responses and progress, the Bureau then decided as follows:-

- (i) Most resolutions of Inter-Parliamentary Seminars (Nanyuki series) are not acted upon by the National Assemblies/Parliaments.
- (ii) EALA to submit copies of Resolutions immediately after the Inter-Parliamentary Seminars (Nanyuki series) to the National Assemblies/Parliaments and the Bureau.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) The last Nanyuki meeting took place in Dar-es-Salaam. It was not possible to invite all the Members of Tanzania National Assembly because of the venue.
- (ii) EALA always submits copies of all resolutions upon adoption by the House.

(e) Consideration of Bills sent to National Assemblies/Parliaments for comments

The meeting recalled that at the 10th Meeting of the Forum of EAC Speakers held on 24th April 2015, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter as follows: -

- (i) The Speaker of EALA informed the Bureau that the Treaty requires EALA to consult National Parliaments on Bills introduced before the Assembly. National Parliaments are required to make comments on the Bills.
- (ii) The Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda have been instrumental in making and submitting comments to EALA on every Bill transmitted to them. In this regard, the Republic of Kenya has adopted an elaborate and institutionalized procedure to guide their work.
- (iii) The Partner States are required to regularly send comments on Bills as provided by Article 65 of the Treaty. This could be assigned to Committees responsible for EAC matters.
- (iv) The Bureau took note of the request and decided that the National Assemblies/Parliaments re-look at their Rules of Procedure to address any delays.

The Bureau of the EAC Speakers took note of the above developments and then noted/decided as follows:-

The National Assemblies/Parliaments of Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda have updated their Rules of Procedure to provide for elaborate and institutionalized procedures to guide their work. The Tanzania National Assembly is in the process of reviewing its Rules of Procedure.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

The Tanzania National Assembly has reviewed its Rules of Procedure.

8.7 Arising from Agenda Item "9.0 State of security in the region"

The meeting recalled that in the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of Speakers noted with concern the increasing security threats in the region occasioned 'by terrorists attacks in Kenya by Al-Shabaab, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacks in Uganda and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) attacks in Rwanda as well as xenophobic violence in South Africa.

In consideration of the above, the Bureau then decided as follows:-

- (i) The Chairperson of the Speakers' Bureau to issue a statement/communiqué on security threats in the EAC region and xenophobia in South Africa.
- (ii) The Chairperson of the Bureau to write to the Speaker of the Parliament of South Africa to condemn the xenophobia and urge the Parliament to press for a solution.
- (iii) To condemn genocide ideology, revisionism and denial in the region.
- (iv) EALA to expedite implementation of the Nanyuki VIII Report and its Resolution.
- (v) Urges security institutions and agencies to share information on the extremists groups and their metamorphic nature.
- (vi) Urge the EAC Partner States to come up with measures and mechanisms to address the challenge collectively.

The Bureau of the EAC Speakers took note of the following progress on the matter:-

- (i) A statement/communiqué on security threats in the EAC region and xenophobia in South Africa was issued. The Communiqué condemned genocide ideology, revisionism and denial in the region.
- (ii) The Chairperson of the Bureau wrote to the Speaker of the Parliament of South Africa to condemn the xenophobia and to urge the Parliament to press for a solution.
- (iii) EALA disseminated the Report of the Nanyuki VIII Seminar to all Partner States.

9.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPEAKERS FORUM

The meeting recalled that during its previous meetings the necessity to undertake the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Speakers' Forum to include the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate as members of the EAC Bureau of Speakers, and to allow representation by the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate had been raised.

The Bureau of the EAC Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

The Secretariat drafted and circulated the schedule of the proposed amendments to the National Assemblies /Parliaments for comments.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. Adopted the following proposed amendments:-

1.1 Under Rule 1:

- (a) **"Member of the Bureau"** means a Speaker/President of National Legislature however designated of a Partner State and the Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly.
- (b) **"Presiding Officer"** means a person who presides over the proceedings of a National Legislature however designated of a Partner State or the Assembly.
- (c) **"Speaker"** means Speaker or President of National Legislature however designated of a Partner State and the Speaker of the Assembly.

1.2 A general amendment:

To delete the words **"National Assemblies/Parliaments"** and substitute thereof with the words **"National Legislature however designated"** wherever they appear in the Rules.

10.0 THE HOSTING OF THE EAST AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE (EAPI)

The Parliament of Kenya has expressed its interest to host the EAPI. The expression of interest by the Republic of Kenya to host the EAPI is based on the fact that the Republic of Kenya already has the necessary infrastructure because it is running a similar institute. The Republic of Kenya is aware of the criteria of hosting of Institutions and Organs of EAC but this only serves as lobby for support when the time comes.

The Bureau of the EAC Speakers took note of progress on the matter as follows:

- (i) The date of commencement of the EAPI Act is yet to be gazetted by EAC Council of Ministers as required under the Act.
- (ii) At its 33rd meeting, the Council of Ministers decided that EALA should start to budget for the operation of EAPI w.e.f FY 2016/2017.
- (iii) Vide his letter reference EALA/STP/18 of 14th March, 2016, the Clerk of EALA notified the National Assemblies/Parliaments accordingly and with a request for them to also budget for the EAPI.
- (iv) The interest of the Republic of Kenya in hosting the EAPI.
- (v) That under the EAPI Act the EAC Speakers form the Board of Trustees for the Institute.
- (vi) Upon operationalization of the Act, the Board of Trustees can conclusively advise the Council of Ministers on the matter.

11.0 REVIEW OF THE MANDATE OF THE BUREAU

The meeting noted that the review of the mandate of the Bureau as proposed by the Parliament of Kenya as an agenda item may not be possible in this meeting noting that Partner States have not yet submitted their comments on the Concept Note.

It was agreed that this matter be considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. The National Assemblies/Parliaments should submit their comments on the Concept Note by end of August 2016.

12.0 TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU

The meeting recalled that at its previous meetings, it was the considered opinion of the Bureau that topical issues should always form part of the agenda of the Forum for discussion, experience and information sharing.

Arising out of the above, the Parliament of Kenya forwarded to the Secretariat the following topics for discussion.

- (a) Emerging challenges for Speakers: Multiparty Chambers and minority or coalition governments
- (b) The role of the Speaker in maintaining discipline and decorum in the House

The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly presented a paper on: "*The role of the Speaker in maintaining discipline and decorum in the House*".

The Bureau having taken note of the above progress, decided as follows:-

1. Expressed appreciation to Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi for the presentation of the paper.
2. Agreed that presentation of papers on topical issues would form part of the agenda of future meetings of the Bureau.
3. The Secretariat was tasked to audit dominant emerging issues in the Legislatures in the region and share with all National Assemblies/Parliaments for purposes of getting topics for discussion during the meetings.

13.0 THE NEXT CHAIR OF THE BUREAU

The meeting decided that the next Chair of Bureau will be the Parliament of Burundi.

14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

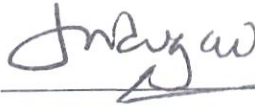
The meeting resolved that the Chair of the Bureau should write to the Burundi Peace Mediation Committee expressing the Bureau's support towards its efforts and to urge them to hasten the process.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on Friday 29th April 2016 at 6.00 pm to April 2017 at the venue to be determined.

Signed by:

Rt. Hon. Job Y. Ndugai
Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania

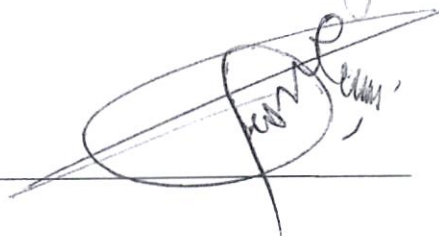


Rt. Hon. Justin B. N. Muturi, EGH, MP
**Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of Kenya**





Hon. Jeanne d'Arc Uwimanimpaye
**Deputy Speaker, Chamber of Deputies
Parliament of Rwanda**

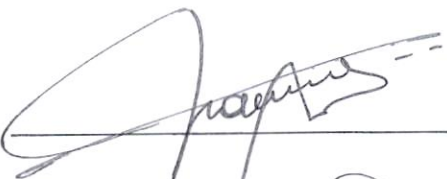


Hon. Edouard Nduwimana
2nd Deputy Speaker, Burundi National Assembly

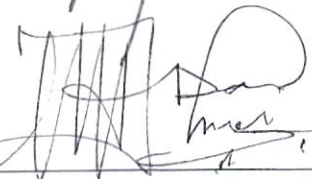




Rt. Hon. Senator Ekwee Ethuro, EGH
**Speaker of the Senate
Parliament of Kenya**



Rt. Hon. Révérien Ndikuriyo
President of the Burundi Senate



Rt. Hon. Daniel F. Kidega
Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

ANNEX I



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**REMARKS BY RT. HON. DANIEL FRED KIDEGA, SPEAKER OF EALA AT
THE MEETING OF THE EAC SPEAKERS BUREAU**

MOUNT MERU HOTEL, ARUSHA, TANZANIA – APRIL 29TH, 2016

Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi, Speaker, Kenya National Assembly

Rt. Hon. Job Ndugai, Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania

Rt Hon Ekwe Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya,

Rt. Hon Révérien Ndikuriyo, Speaker of the Senate of Burundi,

**Hon Jeanne d'Arc Uwimanimpaye, Deputy Speaker, Rwanda Chamber
of Deputies**

**Rt. Hon. Edouard Nduwimana, Deputy Speaker, Burundi National
Assembly**

Clerks to EALA and the National Parliaments

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning. I wish to duly welcome you to the 11th Bureau of the EAC Speakers Forum taking place here in Arusha, Tanzania and to assure you we shall spare no efforts in ensuring your stay is as comfortable as can be. I thank you all for making the Forum a success in terms of attendance. On the same note, may I inform you that I have received apologies from the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga. The Parliament of Uganda is however represented here by the Clerk's designate who is also the Deputy Clerk of experience and long standing.

1.0 Welcome of New Members

I take this opportunity to welcome the new Speakers to the Bureau of Speakers.

1. Burundi National Assembly - Rt Hon Pascal Nyabenda elected in August 2015 (ably represented here by Hon Nduwimana Edouard)
2. Speaker of the Senate of Burundi - Rt. Hon Révérien Ndikuriyo
3. Parliament of Tanzania - Rt Hon Job Ndugai elected as Speaker in November 2015.
4. Hon Jeanne d'Arc Uwimanimpaye, Deputy Speaker, Rwanda Chamber of Deputies.

I duly welcome you and wish you well as you lead your respective Houses.

Distinguished Speakers:

1. I am also pleased to be part of the Bureau of Speakers having been in Office for 16 months now. I thank you for entrusting me with the Chair of the Bureau of Speakers and in the regard, congratulate the outgoing Chair, Rt. Hon Job Ndugai (his predecessor, Rt. Hon Anna Makinda) for guidance and vision during the last one year.
2. I also wish to give due credence to the EALA Speaker *Emeritus*, Rt, Hon Abdirahin Abdi and our predecessors for the distinctive role played in the establishment of the Bureau of Speakers leading to the inaugural meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2008. The Bureau of Speakers has contributed a great deal to strengthening the role of EAC Parliaments in the integration process in line with Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

3. I wish to register and appreciate the support received from you and your respective National Assemblies/Senates. I value the honour and support that you accord and extend to EALA during the Plenary Sittings in the respective Parliaments. Despite the fact that rotational sittings are very much a Treaty matter, your personal support in more ways than one, often make such Sittings successful.

2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

Rt Hon Speakers, there are a number of areas I wish to report on:

2.1 Progress of EALA

Since January 2015, EALA has realized steady progress. To date, the Assembly has held rotational Sittings in the Partner States and in total, passed 10 Bills, 16 Resolutions and 26 reports. The next Sitting is expected to be held in Arusha on May 23rd – June 3rd, 2016. During the same period, other developments were also registered.

2.2 9th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki IX Series)

The Nanyuki IX Seminar Series was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on March 2nd - 4th, 2016 under the theme: "*Compliance with the African Union and Sub-Regional Blocs' Election Benchmarks: the case of the EAC*". I thank all the Speakers for nominating legislators and for their effective participation.

2.3 Sensitization of the EAC citizens

As part of its mandate, EALA has been undertaking sensitization of various publics in March-April 2016. The sensitization activities targeted the civil society, private sector, women and youth groups and Parliaments in fulfillment of one of the operational principles of the Community; that of "*people-centeredness*". We shall embark on phase 2 of the same immediately after the EALA Sitting.

2.4 EALA's Initiatives in Republic of Burundi

As you may be aware, Burundi has faced challenges from the time it held its Presidential elections in 2015. In that regard, the EALA Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution held a Public Hearing Workshop on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Burundi on January 13th - 15th, 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania.

1. The Public Hearing sought to establish the facts as reported by a petition on the subject matter prepared by the Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU) – principal petitioner and the East Africa Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF), Atrocities Watch Africa, Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union, East Africa Law Society (EALS) and the Kituo Cha Katiba (KcK). The petition was originally presented to the Speaker of EALA on November 25th, 2015 in Arusha, Tanzania.
2. This provided the Committee and indeed EALA an opportunity to listen to the contributions from stakeholders comprising of the representatives of Civil Society Organisations and the Opposition Parties in Burundi.
3. The Government of Burundi however requested to be allowed to make its rebuttal at a later date and the Assembly held a second Public Hearing workshop on January 25th, 2016.
4. The report of the Committee was debated and adopted in the House at the Plenary Sitting in February 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania. Copies have been deposited with all Clerks of national Parliaments.
5. The Assembly urged the EAC Summit to consider and support establishment of a credible investigative mechanism to independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations in Burundi. While supporting the work of the Office of the mediator, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, EALA is emphatic that an all-

inclusive, participatory and credible process of dialogue in and outside of Burundi shall bring peace to the country.

6. The Assembly also urged the EAC Summit of Heads of State to affirm that EAC has a duty of care and responsibility to protect the people of Burundi from violence and to guarantee their safety and security.
7. Generally, the Assembly lauded the commitments taken by the African Union (AU) on the issue of sending a high level mission to Burundi to discuss deployment of an African Union preventive and protection force to secure the wellbeing of citizens. In the same vein, it underscored the need for AU to deploy a non-partisan preventive and protection force to secure the wellbeing of the citizens and to stop the gross human rights violations.
8. Bilaterally, we have also addressed matters affecting the Membership of four Members from Burundi with the Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly.

2.5 6th Inter-Parliamentary Games

1. The 6th Inter-Parliamentary Games Tournament was held in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2015. The Games which were preceded by a Pre-Tournament Conference were thrilling and exciting. In summary, the teams won the disciplines as follows:
 - Soccer – EALA
 - Netball – Parliament of Uganda
 - Tug of War (Men) – Parliament of Kenya
 - Tug of War (Women)- Parliament of Kenya
 - Athletics – Overall trophy - Parliament of Kenya
 - Men – Parliament of Kenya
 - Women – Parliament of Rwanda
 - Volleyball – Men -Parliament of Kenya

- Volleyball - Women - Parliament of Rwanda
- Golf – Parliament of Kenya

2. I wish to congratulate Rt. Hon Donatille Mukabalisa and the Parliament of Rwanda for the exceptional hosting. I note with satisfaction that the games are now an integral part and indication of the close collaboration between the Parliaments. We congratulate all the teams for their participation.

3. Essentially, there have been requests to broaden the sports disciplines to be more accommodating to the legislators. While this is encouraged, we must also look at the effort it takes to organise and resources available. There have been proposals flouted such as swimming, marathon and indoor Board games. The Forum should advise on the matter. We are open also to receive proposals from potential host country.

2.5 Parliamentary Elections

As EALA, we have continued to be part of the EAC Elections Observation Mission (EOM) and have observed elections in all the Partner States.

I am very pleased to note that Parliamentary elections generally have by and large been very democratic, contributing to the consolidation of democracy in EAC.

Last year, new Members were elected to the Parliament of Burundi and the Parliament of Tanzania. This year, citizens of Uganda elected their representatives to the Parliament of Uganda. In 2017, the cycle of elections shall continue. We expect citizens of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda to go through the same democratic process of giving their representatives fresh mandate.

In the regard, EALA passed the EAC Elections Act, 2012 and was assented to. The Act envisions formation of the EAC Elections Board whose function *inter alia* include: developing, setting standards and advising Partner States on best electoral practices.

The Board further harmonises electoral standards to be adhered to by the National Electoral Commissions. This is a fundamental contribution by EALA towards strengthening electoral processes in the region as a way to consolidating democracy.

2.6 Tenure of the 3rd EALA

While still on elections, as you may be aware, the tenure of the 3rd Assembly ends on June 4, 2017. We are exactly 13 months away. In actual fact, when I hand over the Chair of the Speakers' Forum next year, at about the same time, the process of electioneering shall probably have commenced in Partner States. The 4th Assembly is going to be a totally new Assembly. We expect a good number of Members to "retire" (myself included) having served the mandatory two terms while other faces may drop off due to the process of natural attrition. Then there is Republic of South Sudan which shall for the first time also elect representatives to the regional Assembly.

The EALA Elections Act 2011 is key in this aspect. The Act governs the framework the process of elections of EALA Members in line with respective Parliaments' Rules of Procedure.

I wish to express gratitude to the Parliaments under your visionary leadership and the Political Parties for sending individuals of high caliber, who are believers in the integration process first and foremost and who debate incisively. As Speakers, I request you to continue to guide your Parliaments so that we realise a successful process next year.

2.7 East African Parliamentary Institute

Another innovation of the Speakers' Bureau is its desire to see establishment of a regional Parliamentary Institute to provide a forum for training Members of

Parliament and staff in matters of Parliamentary practice to widen and deepen interaction. This discussion has been on-going since April 2004. I am pleased that after several years, we are beginning to see progress.

- the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) Bill, 2011 was assented to by the Heads of State.
- The Council of Ministers have agreed to the operationalization of the Act and it is expected that it shall be realized in the coming Financial Year.
- Its enforcement is expected to see a vibrant institution that shall enhance capacity building for Parliamentarians, staff and stakeholders.
- I thank the Speakers for the push to have EAPI take-off. This is certainly a legacy of the Speakers' Forum. I urge the Forum to share ideas on the subject matter.

3.0 Other developments at the EAC

I wish to bring to your attention the following progress in the EAC generally;

- The Summit of the EAC at its 17th Ordinary Meeting held in Arusha on March 2, 2016, decided that H.E. Dr John Pombe Magufuli continues as the Chairperson of the Summit for a period of one year.
- The Republic of South Sudan was admitted into the EAC on March 2, 2016 at the 17th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State held in Arusha. The Treaty of accession was signed on 15th April, 2016 between H.E. Dr John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State and H.E. General Salva Kiir Mayardit. The EAC population is now pegged at over 160 Million and the entry is expected to benefit the entire region. I did hold a meeting with the Speaker of the parliament of South Sudan, Rt Hon Magok Rundial

on the sidelines of the 134th IPU Conference held in March 2016 to look into the modalities of collaboration and their membership at EALA.

- Appointment of Hon Liberat Mfumukeko as the new Secretary General of the EAC replacing Hon Amb Dr Richard Sezibera. Hon Mfumukeko assumed office on April 26th, 2016. Hon Mfumukeko will be sworn in by the Speaker of EALA as an *ex-officio* Member of the Assembly at the next Sitting. I want to congratulate Hon. Amb Dr Richard Sezibera for a job well done.
- Their Excellencies at the Summit also launched the new International East African E-Passport and directed commencement of issuance takes place from January 1st 2017 while implementation of phase-out of national passports shall be between January 1st 2017 and December 2018. I believe Parliaments can play a key role in awareness and enhancing outreach of the new passports.

3.1 Challenges at the EAC

3.2 Funding

Funding to the EAC is increasingly becoming a challenge. Over the last Financial Year, Partner States have faced serious challenges in remittances (USD 8.37 Million per Year per Partner State).

The donor component has drastically reduced with little remittances and this is largely resultant from challenges in Europe.

In order to cushion this aspect, the EAC sought for an Alternate Financing Model (Alternate Financing mechanism) in which Partner

States were to contribute a portion of their annual tax collection (0.5%). The Summit has directed the Council of Ministers to finalise the matter including a hybrid of a levy and equal contributions with a commitment to increase budget that encompasses the principles of equity, solidarity and equality and to report at the next meeting. Perhaps, the Speakers can call on the EAC Minister/Cabinet Secretary in the Partner State to brief you more comprehensively on the matter as they conclude.

4.0 Congratulatory Message – Hon Rebecca Kadaga

Lastly, before I finish, I want to reserve some words for Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga (though in absentia), who is senior to some of us in terms of years of leadership at the helm of the Assembly. I note that the political life of the current Parliament ends next month. I have followed closely on some of the achievements during her tenure and it is only right that I recognize and laud Rt. Hon Kadaga for her exceptional leadership.

Rt. Hon Kadaga has diligently served the Parliament of Uganda and fervently supported the Speakers' Bureau. I wish her well in her future endeavour.

Rt. Hon Speakers, I submit.

ANNEX II

Fellow colleagues from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and EAC

It may singular honour to attend for the first time the EAC Bureau of Speakers Meeting since my election as Speaker in November, 2015.

Although this event is hosted by EALA Secretariat, it is happening in Arusha, and I take this opportunity to welcome colleagues to Tanzania.

I further wish to add on record a very warm welcome to the Republic of South Sudan to the EAC and I know subsequently they will join EALA and this Bureau. I attended the official ceremony of South Sudan accession into the EAC in Dar es Salaam. I met and exchanged views albeit briefly with H. E. Salva Kiri, President of the Republic of South Sudan.

I congratulate them for peace accord brokered recently and wish them well. With the arrival of Riek Machar in Juba and being sworn in as Vice President the future looks prosperous.

In Tanzania, we are making great strides in our role as active Members of EAC and EALA. Recently H. E. John Magufuli and his Rwanda Counterpart H.E. Paul Kagame, inaugurated a one stop border post on the 6th April, 2016. This is an important milestone towards facilitating Regional Trade and deepening EAC integration. The move will eliminate tedious customs and immigration clearing procedure on Rwanda Tanzania border.

In Tanzania, our 11th Parliament is now in the 3rd Meeting. We have a threshold of 394 members, but we have 392 at the moment.

The number of women is roughly 36%, which is around the same as previous Parliament we are currently in the budget session.

In conclusion on behalf of Parliament of Tanzania I would like to reiterate our support for EALA and other EAC members state Parliaments collectively and individually.

Thank you for listening.

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY HONORABLE REVERIEN NDIKURIYO,
BURUNDI SENATE SPEAKER, WHILE IN A MEETING OF SPEAKERS OF
PARLIAMENTS OF PARTNER STATES OF THE EAST-AFRICAN
COMMUNITY**

ARUSHA, April 29, 2016

Rt. Hon. Chairperson;

Rt. Hon. Speakers;

Hon. Members;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. It is a great honor for me to speak before this august Assembly, especially as it is the first time I participate in such a meeting as Speaker of the Senate of Burundi after democratic elections my country organized during the year 2015.
2. First of all, let me present you the warm greetings of the population of Burundi, the Parliament of the Republic of Burundi, and finally my own greetings to all of you dear colleagues.
3. Let me also express my gratitude to the Tanzanian authorities and through you, Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, all the population of Tanzania for your warm welcome and hospitality to us from our arrival to the Tanzanian soil.
4. All of you heard it, since April 2015, Burundi has been propelled as international news by a certain opinion, as part of a vast international conspiracy to destabilize it.

5. Indeed, hidden behind what they called the rejection of a candidature of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza to a "third term" a radical opposition and some civil society organisations organized on April 26, 2015 a very violent insurrectional movement in some quarters of Bujumbura capital. That insurrection was quickly controlled. Unfortunately, slanderous hype of the insurrection was organized through great international media, to show the world that the government was trying to suppress a peaceful demonstration through killing.

6. In the process, a coup was foiled on May 13, 2015. Perpetrators of the coup fled abroad. In collaboration with organizers of the insurrectional movement, they organized armed groups to attack and terrorize Burundian population.

7. Considerable effort was spent to restore peace and security in quarters where the insurrectional movement had caused enormous damage. The achieved results are satisfactory. Burundians who fled to neighboring countries are voluntarily returning to their native country. Nevertheless, for some, the return is hindered by the machinations of one of our neighboring countries- the Republic of Rwanda- which opted to recruit and train rebels in Burundian refugees' camps within its territory in order to push them to attack the Republic of Burundi to complete destabilization of institutions initiated since the outbreak of the insurrectional movement.

8. We thank the East African Community, which remained alongside the Burundian people, and continues to defend the right of people to choose their leaders and to preserve the sovereignty of their States.

9. Some Western countries have urged the African Union to consider the deployment of a military force in Burundi.

We thank the Heads of State and Government of the African Union that have categorically rejected this promising project of Living Dangerously.

10. We all know, entire nations have been destroyed by foreign powers under the pretext of maintaining peace, leaving behind wounded people, left to themselves. We all know what happened to countries like Libya, Iraq, Syria to name but a few. This is what the Burundi avoided, thanks to the courage and professionalism of its defense and security forces, and the support of its friends

Rt. Hon. Chairperson;

Rt. Hon. Speakers;

Hon. Members;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

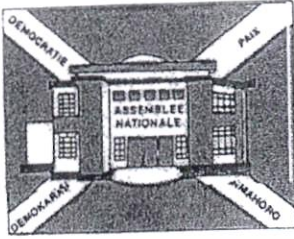
11. Today, terrorism observed in Africa and worldwide causes enormous damage. Our countries are not immune to terrorism. There have already been hard hit by the terrorist attacks. The position of the Burundian people is that terrorism should be treated as such, there are no "good" and "bad" terrorists, all terrorists must be fought. However, the most surprising is that we see the powers that instead of supporting good initiatives of a government that does everything to protect its population, which has succeeded in avoiding a coup against the democratically elected institutions, hasten rather to take action against it.

12. This is why we insist that we need more solidarity. We should not close the eye under the pretext that the great powers have already spoken, because after all, our best destiny is in our own hands.

13. I cannot conclude without asking the member countries of the East African Community to support the Republic of Burundi, so that the EU lift the unjust sanctions against the Government of the Republic of Burundi as they fall of a pure manipulation of the truth in order to deprive the people of Burundi's right to take over its destiny. Finally, as our young people have been involved in violence and terrorist acts, I would like to ask EAC Partner States to attract investors so that our young people get jobs.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ANNEX IV



**REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI
ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE
CABINET DU PRESIDENT**

**MEETING OF THE FORUM OF EAC SPEAKERS, 29TH
APRIL 2016, ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**STATEMENT BY HON. EDOUARD NDUWIMANA, SECOND
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF BURUNDI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Draft

Arusha, 29th April 2016

- **Rt. Hon. Chairperson of the Forum of the Bureau of the East African Community Speakers;**
- **Rt. Hon. Speakers of National Parliaments;**
- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Hon. Members of National Parliaments, Senates and Assemblies and Leaders of Delegations;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is an honour and a privilege for me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the East African Legislative Assembly, EALA, on behalf of Burundi National Assembly and on my own behalf, for its invitation to the 11th Meeting of the Bureau of the East African Community Speakers. Without this invitation, it would not have been possible for me to address this august Meeting.

My deeply sincere thankfulness is addressed to EALA, the people of the United Republic of Tanzania and their visionary leaders for their warm welcome and hospitality. This shows that they are on the right way to the integration of the East African Community.

This is also an opportunity for me to congratulate Rt. Hon. Job NDIGAE on his election as the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania.

Burundi National Assembly reiterates its commitment to strengthen the already excellent relations that exist between EALA and all EAC National Parliaments and Assemblies.

- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Hon. Leaders of Delegations;**

Excellent relations and resolute support from the EAC is what Burundians need, especially during the post-electoral situation that is prevailing in their country.

I seize this opportunity to call on all Rt. Hon. Speakers and Heads of Delegations to extend my heartfelt gratitude to EAC Partner States' Heads of State for standing by the side of Burundi and, particularly, for saying no to the violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Burundi when they refused to endorse an African Mission for Prevention and Protection

to Burundi (MAPROBU). They know that Burundi is a country whose security and defence forces participate in peacekeeping missions in Africa and elsewhere in the world and that, therefore, they can protect ably the integrity of the Burundi territory and its entire people.

- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Hon. Leaders of Delegations;**

Regarding elections, as you are aware, in 2015, general elections were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, the Electoral Code and other laws in force in Burundi.

The majority of the people who have internalised democratic values participated massively in all the stages of the electoral process; they prevented Burundi from falling into an institutional vacuum desired by enemies of democracy. They even raised money to fund elections.

Today, from top to bottom, Burundi is ruled by legitimate and inclusive institutions and leaders. All ethnic and gender quotas provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, largely inspired by the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation signed here in Arusha on 28th August 2000, have been respected.

I avail myself of this very rare and opportune moment to assure you that, contrary to rumours and negative images largely broadcast and aired by international media and social networks, the democratic institutions elected in 2015 will spare no effort to implement the Arusha Agreement.

Besides, the controversial issue of a would-be genocide in preparation or underway in Burundi has been dealt with by implementing the Arusha Agreement. All social and political components of the society are represented in all institutions and the forces for defense and security.

If doubt persists, I invite you to come or send a fact-finding mission, which is welcome, to see how the Arusha Agreement is being implemented and how the prevailing political and security situation is remarkably being improved.

- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In Burundi, conflicts arise before during and after elections. During electoral processes, international media and social networks work with a group of people, a political minority, not an ethnic or gender minority, which has no people-centred political agenda and which opposes fiercely elections and direct universal suffrage. Those people want power-sharing without participation of the population.

That is why when the country was preparing for the 2015 elections, this group rejected all that was being done and was later proven to be conspiring against democratically-elected institutions.

Launching a campaign of misinformation, intoxication, denigration, demonisation, civil disobedience, protests, terrorist acts and insurrection, the group called its followers to overthrow the Government by a coup d'Etat.

Their objective was establishing a transitional government and burying the democratic principle of one person, one vote. The would-be third term of the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Pierre NKURUNZIZA, was just a pretext for this group to refuse to stand for the 2015 elections.

- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

There is no doubt that disagreements were born with the elections held in the 2015 elections. In Burundi, we believe that the only way to find a sustainable solution to those disagreements is a two-stage inclusive dialogue. That is why a National Commission for Inter-Burundian Dialogue, CNDI, was set up and is at work today.

The first stage of the dialogue, which is an internal inter-Burundian dialogue organised in Burundi, has reached a satisfying level.

The second stage is the external inter-Burundian dialogue which is to be organised abroad, under the facilitation of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI, President of the Republic of Uganda, who chaired the

Regional Initiative for Burundi, and H.E. Benjamin MKAPA, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Government of Burundi is ready to dialogue with Burundians living outside their home country because. It is only dialogue that can find sustainable solutions for politicians and other people who are afraid of direct universal suffrage and other disagreements which arise with elections.

In addition, in order to reconcile Burundians sustainably, a Truth and Reconciliation Committee is also at work. It has to investigate and to establish the truth about the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed during the period from the day of independence, on July 1, 1962, to December 4, 2008, the day of the end of the belligerence.

- **Rt. Hon. Chairperson;**
- **Rt. Hon. Speakers;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Because of the situation that has prevailed for nearly a year, Burundi has no financial resources to fund the inter-Burundian dialogue and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Besides, the country is under economic sanctions imposed mainly by the European Union. If those sanctions are not lifted, the current efforts to reconcile Burundians are likely to suffer a setback.

That is EAC Partner States should plead for these sanctions to be lifted to make it easier for Burundi to integrate into EAC. I believe that Burundi's integration into EAC will resolve her recurring conflicts and promote her sustainable development.

To conclude, I assure you that the Parliament of Burundi is ready to put in place all legislation needed for a smooth EAC integration and promote inter-parliamentary cooperation.

I wish very successful deliberations during this Meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention

HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, EGH, M.P, REMARKS DURING THE
EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) SPEAKER'S FORUM,
ARUSHA, TANZANIA, 26TH – 30TH APRIL 2016

- Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly
- Hon. Speakers
- Clerks and Secretary Generals of Parliament
- Bureau Secretariat and Officers from Parliaments of Partner States
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be with you here today for this 11th Speakers forum.

Hon. Speakers,

I must begin by commending this bureau for meeting regularly to deliberate on important matters facing our Legislatures and region. Further, I commend the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this great city of Arusha.

I wish to congratulate the partner states of Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania for holding general elections in the past one year. Subsequently am aware that the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Parliament of Burundi, elected new Speakers. To this end, may I take this early opportunity, On behalf of the Kenya National Assembly and on my own Behalf, to welcome and congratulate the new Speakers of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rt. Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai, Burundi Senate, Hon. Reverien Ndikuriyo and Burundi National Assembly Rt. Hon. Pascal Nyabenda, following their election as Speakers. In the same breath, I wish our sister, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda success in her campaigns to be the next speaker.

In April last year when we met in Dar Es Salaam, we agreed on various action plans a highlight of which were:

- To ensure that Legislators enact enabling laws that will enhance the Integration process and make sure that it is people centered. To approve for ratification the Monetary Union and the Standby Force protocols.
- To Fast-track the amendments to the EAC Treaty to make this Bureau an organ of the community and also fast-track the operationalization of the EAC Act to establish the institute.
- Removal of Non-Tariff Barriers while EALA appealed to this Bureau to assist on matters relating to assent of Bills.

It is my hope that this forum will evaluate progress made in the achievement of resolution agreed upon and status of implementation recorded.

Hon. Speakers,

This meeting takes place at a time when our region more than ever expects its leadership to consolidate strategies on how to address hindrances to prosperity. Such strategies should be aimed at ensuring sustained economic growth, peace, security and social cohesion as well as tackling run away unemployment of our people. Our people deserve sustained peace and improved social interaction with respect for order and the rule of law.

EAC Parliaments are faced with the challenge of ensuring that there is proper oversight to ensure the resources available are properly utilized and that any misappropriation is eradicated. We need continued good governance and strong accountable institutions. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure efficient management of resources in a cost effective way that will generate wealth. I also encourage partner states to do more to stimulate industrial growth, education, science and technology as well as strengthen major sectors like tourism and trade.

Our region must take lead in the area of environmental conservation and the alleviation of the impact of climatic change. This is in line with International environmental concerns and the newly set Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek the inclusivity of all countries in the sustainable development agenda.

Hon. Speakers,

The forum offers an opportunity to enhance experience sharing and strengthen EAC member state relations. It is a good opportunity for us to exchange valuable information for the benefit of our Legislatures and consequently our citizens. Our region has huge economic, political and social potential and we must create more ways to mutually benefit from our cooperation. In the area of social interaction, I must commend the republic of Rwanda for successfully hosting the Inter-Parliamentary Games in December last year.

Hon. Speakers

On Friday, 15th April 2016, the Republic of South Sudan signed the Treaty of accession into the EAC in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. This was a fulfilment of a dream by EAC member states to expand and accommodate more East African members. This will strengthen regional integration as well as stimulate progress and development. I take the opportunity to welcome this latest member in the Community. The integration process is well on track as the region has continued to grow both in geographical size and economic strength. The EAC has within a relatively short time since its establishment realized tremendous progress in regional co-operation and significant impact on regional development.

Moving forward, other than good governance that is vital, the region needs a modernized and vastly revamped infrastructure and roads network, efficient information and communications system as well as reliable power supply. This will stimulate industrial and agricultural development, create employment and generate wealth, taking the region to its rightful place among the fast modernizing economies of the world.

Hon. Speakers,

In Conclusion, as the process towards political federation is sustained, EAC's abiding concern remains to align national political activities and trends with regional integration objectives, deeper integration and rapid socio-economic transformation. A major pre-occupation in the period ahead will be in fostering friendly relations and sustainable management of common

resources among Partner States. The issues of peace, security, stability and strengthening of relations with the African Union and other international organizations will increasingly take pride of place as we set sight firmly on the strategic goal of Political Federation. I commend you Hon. Speaker's for your participation and indeed all those who were involved in the preparation of this forum.

I THANK YOU.

RWANDA'S SPEECH by UWIMANIMPAYE Jeanne d'Arc

- Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred KIDEGA, Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Bureau of EAC Speakers,
- Rt. Hon. Speakers,
- Hon 2nd Deputy speaker,
- Dear Clerks,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an enormous privilege and honour, and a personal joy, for me to be with you here today. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Republic of Tanzania, People of Tanzania, EALA and the Secretariat of EAC for the good environment provided for this Conference and for the gracious hospitality extended to us.

I also take this occasion to convey to you Rt. Hon. Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen, sincere greetings from RT Hon Donatille Mukabalisa, The Parliament of Rwanda and the people of Rwanda.

I also take this moment to congratulate the new elected Speakers,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you in this important forum of Bureau of EAC Speakers to share thoughts and exchange views on our organization the EAC.

Right Honorable Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, in Rwanda we are celebrating the 22nd commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi whereby more than one million of innocent people were killed and infrastructure totally destroyed, it is the worst horror of the modern human history that our country went through due to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

After 1994 genocide more effort has been put on peace and security, and rebuilding the country.

With the visionary leadership of HE Paul Kagame Rwanda today is at its best stability, growing economy and inclusive society than ever before.

Right. Honorable Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thought we recognize that we have achieved a lot, we still have determination to go further. We thank the effort made by EAC countries to faster cooperation. Rwanda has made tremendous progress since it joined the EAC in 2007. The Country is already reaping benefits of being part of the East African Community as our trade has involved with the other partner states as well as investments and during the past few years since we joined the region.

As the East African Community aims at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States, Rwanda has embarked on a policy of facilitating free movement of workers and services by removing all those barriers that used to impede our trade with East Africans and that has been beneficial to our economy and we have seen important achievements among others non-tariff barriers (NTBs) removed which has improved the business environment in the region and One Stop Border Posts have been operationalized, operational hours being extended.

Rt. Honorable Speakers,

It's very important to deal with the issues of terrorism which is also a major problem that our region is facing. Terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab, FDLR and others continue their terror attacks in different countries of the region. The East African Community (EAC) should urgently come up with drastic measures on how to jointly counter terrorism in the region.

It's time for a concerted effort to put up that good fight. Terrorism must be stopped for the benefits of our common people.

**RT Hon SPEAKERS, Allow me to speak
on the allegation of Burundi,**

The government of Rwanda has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating political situation and increasing violence and unrest in neighboring Burundi. Rwanda and Burundi share more than mere borders. The historical linkage between the two countries provides Rwanda with every legitimate reason to be worried about an unstable Burundi.

Geographically, demographically, culturally and linguistically, Rwanda and Burundi are inter-linked. They share a common bitter colonial history. An unstable Burundi simply spells bad omen for Rwanda and not only about the growing number of refugees that Rwanda has to grapple with, but also about the ethnic dimension that this conflict might take.

On the allegations of the government of the Republic of Burundi and those contained in a confidential report to the United Nations Security Council accusing Rwanda of recruiting and training Burundian refugees with the goal of ousting Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza, the government of Rwanda has consistently denied those accusations and informed the international community that those unfounded allegations come from the fact that Rwanda has been hosting refugees considered hostile to the government of Burundi as Rwanda considers the safety of innocent population as a regional and international responsibility.

The government of Rwanda also questioned the credibility of the UN report calling for serious scrutiny of accusations solely based on unverified "testimonies" of young Burundian men found in the Congo forest with no explanation of how and why some refugees met in another country and were connected to Rwanda.

Those Unverified accusations have again leaked from the UN Group of Experts. This plays into hand of those who wish to externalize blame and draw out the conflict. The sooner the international community focuses on that, and not look for scapegoats the better!

75,000 Burundians have fled to Rwanda since the conflict in their country started. In a difficult political environment, the Government of Rwanda has been working tirelessly to treat the Refugees as decently and comfortable as possible and will continue to work with other partners in the region and beyond to achieve stability in Burundi.

Assuring the people of Burundi a night sleep and overall protection is what International community should be bothered with, the rest is just predictable and transparent diversion. Using Rwanda as a scapegoat, undermines the diplomatic process and in the end harms most of all the people of Burundi who continue to suffer.

Now it's important to understand that the management of refugees next door to their homeland is always complicated and the Rwandan government has had to impose very restrictive measures on Burundian refugees as experience in the Great Lakes is that the long-term presence of refugees so close to their country of origin carries considerable risks for all involved.

The callous indifference of some actors of the International Community to the well-known root causes of instability in Burundi, and to politicize the issue of Burundian refugees currently on Rwandan territory is troubling. It also exposes refugees to increased threats from forces at home and compromises lasting political solutions.

For Rwanda, the growing risks to our national security from the Burundian impasse and misunderstandings in our foreign relations are unacceptable and the Government of Rwanda began working with partners in the international community to plan the orderly and safe relocation of Burundian refugees to third countries.

Burundi's problem is not Rwanda and the Burundian leaders who created the crisis are the ones who should take lead in ending it for the sake of their own people and the government of Rwanda appeals to leaders of Burundi to do everything in their power to bring the country back to a peaceful situation and live peacefully with its neighboring countries.

The government of Rwanda commends the efforts of several regional and international organizations and leaders including the African Union, the East African Community, the United Nations and the European Union and shall continue to work with the region and the international community to support peace.

RT Hon. Speakers,

Right honorables here present, this is a very big opportunity to assess where we are today as parliamentarians, and come out bay taking the right actions which will lead us to improve the welfare of East Africans on the journey of One People to One Destiny.

I believe we all agree that this forum of EAC Speakers will help in generating the prosperity and growth that our peoples need and truly deserve to have.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.