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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAC
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2014/2015

7th – 10th MAY 2017

EAC HEADQUARTERS
ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Clerk's Chambers
EAC Headquarters
EALA Wing, 3rd Floor
Arusha - TANZANIA

31st May 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

The East African Legislative Assembly is mandated under Article 49 (2) (c) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community to among others, consider the annual reports on the activities of the Community. Further, Article 59(3) (a) of the Treaty provides that the Council shall publish annually and present to a meeting of the Assembly a general report on the activities of the Community and which the Assembly shall consider at its meeting.

Articles 48(3) and 49 (2) (e) of the Treaty also mandate the Assembly to establish committees for the effective discharge of its mandate. This is amplified, particularly, by Rules 81 (1) (c) and 81 (2) of the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly.

EAC Annual Reports are considered by the Committee of General Purpose and adopted by the Assembly.

The EAC Annual Report for 2014/2015 was tabled by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers before the Assembly on 23rd November 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya during the 3rd Meeting of the 5th Session of the Third Assembly.

Pursuant to the above Treaty provisions and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on General Purpose convened on 7th - 10th May 2017 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, The United Republic of Tanzania to consider the EAC Annual Report for 2014/2015, and presents its report to this august House for debate.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

During the meeting, the Committee:

1. Reviewed/analyzed the EAC Annual Report for the year 2014/2015;
2. Interacted with the Ag. Deputy Secretary General-Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. Njoroge, and Senior technical officers under this office;

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1. Reviewed/analyzed the EAC Annual Report for the year 2014/2015;
2. Interacted with the Ag. Deputy Secretary General-Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. Njoroge, and Senior technical officers under this office;

3. Reviewed previous reports of the Assembly on EAC Annual Reports(particularly the last two reports) and the recommendations therein, and
4. Interacted with the Council of Ministers.

3.0 FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Previous Assembly Reports on the EAC Annual Reports

1. It was noted that, the Assembly, in its previous reports, particularly in 2015 and 2016, expressed displeasure about the quality/content of the EAC Annual Reports. Specifically, the Assembly found the Annual Reports very misleading since the facts/statistics therein were inaccurate, and full of typo errors.
2. The Assembly also found the annual reports very sub-standard and could not meet international benchmarks, and did not reflect a true picture of the milestones registered in the EAC Integration process.
3. In light of the foregoing, the Assembly, in 2016 recommended, among others:
 - i. That the Council of Ministers makes effort to improve the quality of EAC Annual Reports by, among others; providing accurate statistics, a true picture of the progress in EAC Integration, and do a proper analysis that meets international standards.
 - ii. That the Council ensures timely presentation of the EAC Annual Reports to the Assembly to inform the subsequent year's budgeting process.

3.2 The EAC Annual Report 2014/2015

1. Despite the previous recommendations of the Assembly to the Council of Ministers to improve the quality of the EAC Annual Report, nothing has been done in this regard. The information in the report does not reflect a true picture of the state of Affairs of the EAC during the period under review.
2. Like the previous reports, the 2014/2015 report is narrative, has inaccurate information and statistics, and lacks the analysis to show how impactful the implementation of EAC programmes and projects has been on the livelihoods of the EAC citizens.
3. The report does not talk about the status of implementation of the Summit directives and decisions, and neither does it make any mention of the progress made by the various Organs and Institutions in implementing Assembly resolutions/recommendations and Council decisions.
4. The annual report is equally silent on financial and human resource matters, progress on harmonization of laws in the EAC context, negotiation of protocols or any other legal instruments, or peace initiatives in the region.
5. The report was found to contain glaringly misleading information and inaccuracies which makes its credibility questionable. For example, it is not signed by the Chairperson of Council of Ministers, while the pictures contained therein do not bear captions or explanatory notes which makes their interpretation difficult. On page 19 of the report different base years are given for each country to correlate literacy statistics.

6. According to Mr. Charles Njoroge Ag. Deputy Secretary General, Planning and Infrastructure-DSG, P & I, it was apparent that, over the years, the EAC Secretariat has not done any planning in regards to preparation and writing of the EAC Annual Report. No specific committee has ever been constituted to do the compilation and analysis of the report. This explains why the report contains raw data, and is just narrative.
7. The poor quality of the EAC Annual report reflects badly on the image of the EAC, and puts to question the professional and technical credentials of the officers responsible for writing this report. This resonates well with the confession of Mr. Charles Njoroge, Ag. DSG-P&I during his interaction with the Committee, ***"I have seen and read annual reports for institutions/organizations. I know the standards, and I must agree that the EAC Annual Report for the period under review is lacking"***.
8. The Annual report is expected to be factual, informative and analytical with actionable recommendations which informs policy formulation and legislation. Therefore, the EAC Annual Report for 2014/2015 cannot be used by either the Assembly or any other EAC Organ/Institution not even the Development Partners.
9. It is the considered view of the Committee that the Assembly needs a report that reflects a true picture of the state of affairs of the EAC for the period under review. It should clearly reflect among others, the achievements vis-a-vis the set priorities, challenges/gaps, opportunities, and way forward.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Comparatively, there is no significant difference between the EAC Annual Report for the year 2014/2015 and the previous ones. The quality of the report for the

period under review was found wanting in terms of substance, facts, statistics, clarity, analysis and actionable interventions to influence policy formulation and legislation in the EAC.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee requests the Assembly to:

1. urge the Council of Ministers to fully assume their responsibility as prescribed by Article 14 of the Treaty which comprises others: "monitoring and keeping under constant review the implementation of programmes of the Community and ensure the proper functioning and development of the Community...", and Articles 49 (2) (c) and 59 (3) (a) which provides for the production and presentation of the Annual Report on the activities of the Community to the Assembly.
2. urge the Council of Ministers to recall the current report which is already in circulation, review and present back to the 4th Assembly the EAC Annual Report for the FY 2015/2016 not later than the month of August 2017 (before the pre-budget conference).
3. ensure that the quality of the EAC Annual Report is improved taking into consideration the findings and observations of the Committee as contained in this Report, and further ensure the timely presentation of the Annual Report to the Assembly to inform the budget process of the following Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE
CONSIDERATION OF THE EAC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014/2015**

1. Hon. Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo

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2. Hon. Dr. Martin Nduwimana

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3. Hon. Jean Marie Muhirwa

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4. Hon. Emerence Bucumi

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5. Rt. Dr. Hon. Margaret N. Zziwa

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6. Hon. Susan Nakawuki

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7. Hon. Bernard Mulengani

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8. Hon. Angela C. Kizigha

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9. Hon. Maryam Ussi Yahya

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10. Hon. Charles M. Nyerere

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11. Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro

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12. Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza

.....

13. Hon. Amb. AbuBakr Ogle Abdi

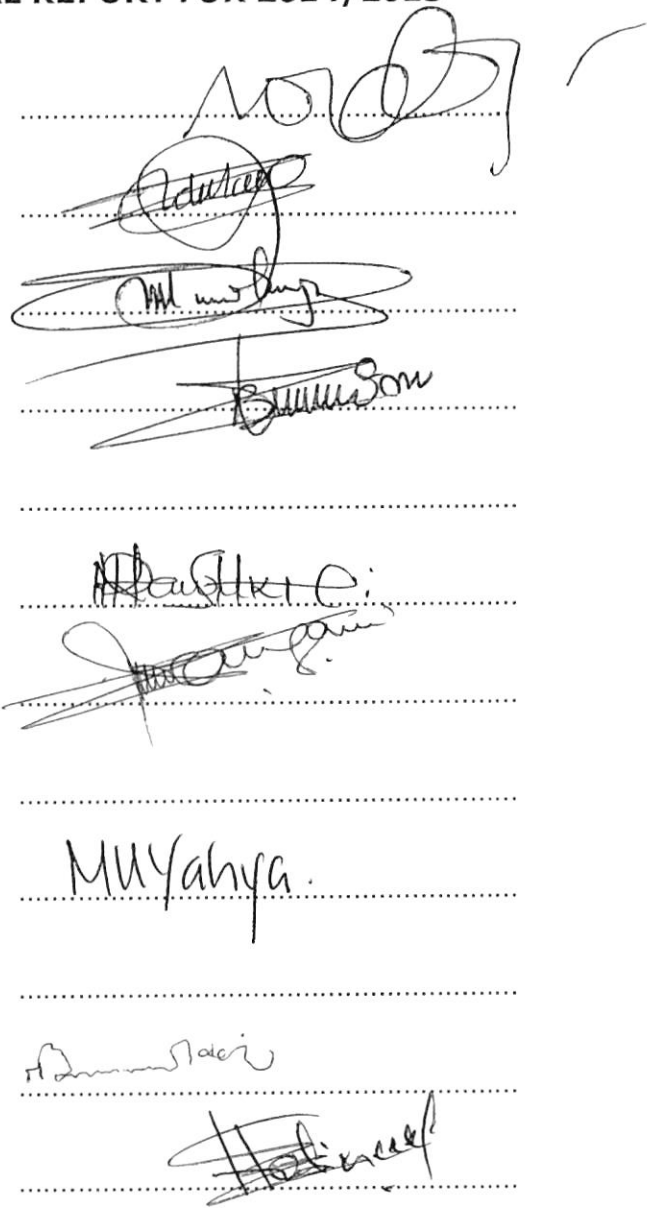
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14. Hon. Abubakar Zein Abubakar

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15. Hon. Nancy Abisai

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The image shows handwritten signatures of the committee members corresponding to the list on the left. The signatures are written in black ink on a white background. Some signatures are written over dotted lines, while others are written above or below them. The signatures are: 1. A large, stylized signature above the first dotted line. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Odette' written over the second dotted line. 3. A signature that appears to be 'Jean Marie' written over the third dotted line. 4. A signature that appears to be 'Emerence' written over the fourth dotted line. 5. A signature that appears to be 'Margaret' written over the fifth dotted line. 6. A signature that appears to be 'Susan' written over the sixth dotted line. 7. A signature that appears to be 'Bernard' written over the seventh dotted line. 8. A signature that appears to be 'Angela' written over the eighth dotted line. 9. A signature that appears to be 'Maryam' written over the ninth dotted line. 10. A signature that appears to be 'Charles' written over the tenth dotted line. 11. A signature that appears to be 'James' written over the eleventh dotted line. 12. A signature that appears to be 'Valerie' written over the twelfth dotted line. 13. A signature that appears to be 'AbuBakr' written over the thirteenth dotted line. 14. A signature that appears to be 'Abubakar' written over the fourteenth dotted line. 15. A signature that appears to be 'Nancy' written over the fifteenth dotted line.