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By hon on
5/10/16



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CELEBRATE THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

By Hon. Nusura Tiperu and adopted by the Assembly on Tuesday 30th August, 2016

COGNISANT OF the 2007 UN Resolution A/62/7 (2007) which stipulates that each year, 15th September should be celebrated as an International Day of Democracy and encouraged Governments to strengthen national programs devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy;

MINDFUL OF the provisions of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, in particular Articles 6 and 7 on fundamental and operational principles including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and people's rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;

RECALLING THAT on 23rd October, 2013, this Assembly passed a Resolution on institutionalizing 15th September as the International Day of Democracy in the East African Community Region, where inter alia, this Assembly committed itself to enhance its role in awareness creation on Democracy and the International Day of Democracy;

RECALLING FURTHER THAT on 29th January, 2015, this Assembly passed a Resolution urging the EAC Partner States to adopt the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;

NOTING THAT the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), to which EALA and all National Assemblies of EAC Partner States belong, has encouraged all its Member Parliaments to annually mark 15th Day of September as the International Day of Democracy;

NOTING FURTHER THAT the IPU by its letter of 13th June 2016 calls on Member Parliaments to use the International Day of Democracy to celebrate the successes of democracy and face up to its challenges;

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NOTING FURTHER THAT the IPU is proposing to all parliaments to organize activities for this year's International Day of Democracy on the theme "**Democracy 2030**";

NOTING FURTHER THAT the IPU proposed the following three themes that could be adopted:

- a. *Future-oriented*: What will democracy look like in 2030? Will people vote online in elections? Crowdsource laws? Will the role of parliament be the same as it is today?
- b. *Youth-oriented*: What are parliaments doing to ensure the political participation of young people and prepare the future of democracy? What progress has been made and what needs to be done?
- c. *Development-oriented*: How can parliaments connect the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with people's expectations of greater participation, inclusiveness and accountability? In what ways will more democracy help to achieve the development goals adopted by the world's governments?;

HAVING DECIDED THAT we focus on the **Youth-Oriented** theme; requiring parliaments to assess themselves on what they are doing to ensure the political participation of young people and prepare the future of democracy and what progress has been made and what needs to be done;

MINDFUL THAT youth in EAC constitute around 63% of the population, therefore constituting a large portion of the active population;

CONVINCED THAT the EAC's greatest resource is its youthful population and that by their active and full participation, EAC can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the African Youth Charter recognizes the right of every young person to participate in all spheres of society and obliges State Parties to facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional and continental levels of governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER the call in Bamako (2005) by the youths' organizations across Africa to empower youth by building their capacity, leadership, responsibilities and provide access to information such that they can take up their rightful place as active agents in decision-making and governance;



RECALLING THAT that on 23rd March 2015, the EAC Youth Ambassadors presented a petition to this Assembly urging the Assembly to advocate for key issues concerning the youth including their participation in national and regional politics;

CONVINCED THAT the theme for the 2016 International Day of Democracy is critical to our region, it is timely, and a significant gear in addressing the challenges of the youths in our region specifically in facilitating their participation in national and regional politics and leadership for the sustainable development of our region and our continent;

RECOGNIZING THAT parliamentarians and other politicians are bound to lead debates/consultations on the future of democracy, the future of parliaments, and the mechanisms to attract more youths to participate and engage in the democratization process for the benefits of the entire Community including the marginalized groups.

NOW THEREFORE, DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

- i. To mark and celebrate the International Day of Democracy on 15th September 2016 by setting an agenda for discussion on what Parliaments are doing to ensure the political participation of young people and prepare the future of democracy.
- ii. Urge all Parliaments of the EAC Partner States to celebrate the International Day of Democracy on 15th September 2016 by having specific programs to facilitate and promote the participation of young people in all affairs of their society including in decision making and political affairs.
- iii. Urge all Political Parties in the EAC Partner States to mark and celebrate the International Day of Democracy by having programs of engaging and facilitating participation of the youth in the democratization process within and without their political parties.

CERTIFIED BY:



**KENNETH MADETE
CLERK**

DATE:

31st August 2016