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**REPORT OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE CLERKS OF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLIES/PARLIAMENTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PARTNER
STATES AND THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON
27TH – 28TH APRIL 2016
AT THE MOUNT MERU HOTEL IN ARUSHA
TANZANIA**

**SECRETARIAT OF
THE BUREAU OF
EAC SPEAKERS**

APRIL, 2016

1.0 BACKGROUND

On 27th and 28th April 2016, a meeting of the Clerks 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 Forum.

The EAC Speakers Forum 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.

The Clerks of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the East African Community are the technical officers of their respective National Assemblies/Parliaments and therefore comprise the technical arm of the EAC Speakers Bureau. The mandate of the meetings of the Clerks is to meet prior to the meetings of the Speakers' Bureau to prepare working documents and agenda for the Speakers' meetings.

According to Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Speakers' Bureau, the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly heads the Secretariat of the Bureau and coordinates all activities under the Bureau. The Secretariat comprises two senior officers from the Office of the Clerk from the National Assembly/Parliament of each Partner State, and officers from the Assembly. This is the coordinating Secretariat for the activities of both the Meetings of the Clerks and those of the Speakers' Bureau.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The 12th Meeting of the Clerks of the National Assemblies/ Parliaments of the East African Community was a follow up of the 11th Meeting of the Clerks held in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania on 24 April 2015.

The meeting was attended by: Dr. Thomas Kashililah, Clerk, Parliament of Tanzania; Mr. Justin Bundi, Clerk, Kenya National Assembly; Mr J.M. Nyegenye, Clerk of the Kenya Senate; Mr. Paul Wabwire, Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Uganda; Mrs. Immaculee Mukarurangwa, Clerk Rwanda Chamber of Deputies; Mr. Marc Rwabahungu, Secretary General, Burundi National Assembly; Mr. Renovat Niyonzima, Secretary General, Burundi Senate and Mr. Kenneth Madete, Clerk 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 Clerks of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the EAC Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, 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 was handed over by the United Republic of Tanzania to the East African Legislative Assembly. The Republic of Uganda was appointed the Rapporteur.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Mr. Ignatius Kasirye.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following agenda were 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. Consideration of matters arising out of the Report of the 10th Meeting of the Clerks
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

The Republic of Burundi proposed an additional agenda item on recruitment of staff at the East African Community. Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau, the agenda item was not adopted.

5.0 WELCOME REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Kenneth Madete – Clerk of the EALA

Mr. Madete welcomed the Clerks and the Secretaries Generals from EAC Partner States Parliaments to Arusha, Tanzania. Specifically, he welcomed Burundi Secretary General Senate and Clerk of the Kenyan Senate to the forum as this being their inaugural meeting. He highlighted that Kenya was the latest EAC country to introduce bicameral system in the region. He thanked Tanzania Parliament for hosting and co-chairing the meeting and appreciated the support Tanzania Parliament has accorded the forum.

He highlighted that the EALA rotational meetings were held as scheduled and thanked all Clerks of the Partner States for facilitation and support.

He mentioned that the Fourth EALA will be constituted in May/June 2017, hence the Clerks may be called upon to assist in induction of the new EALA Members.

In conclusion, he highlighted the Agenda of the meeting as follows:-

- (i) To examine the status of implementation of decisions of the 10th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers; and
- (ii) Proposed agenda for the meeting of the Bureau of Speakers scheduled for 29th April, 2016.

He noted that Kenya proposed additional items on the Agenda.

6.0 STATEMENTS BY CLERKS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

Dr. Thomas Kashililah, Clerk of the Parliament of Tanzania and outgoing chairperson.

The outgoing Chairperson congratulated the Chairperson Mr. Madete and thanked him for taking up the task. He welcomed all the participants in Arusha. He mentioned that the Clerks

should embrace cooperation amongst the EAC Parliaments and the establishment of the forum created avenue where members share experiences. He further, thanked the EALA Secretariat for their support and facilitation of the meeting.

Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS – Senate - Kenya

The Clerk of the Kenya Senate conveyed apologies from the Clerk of the National Assembly of Kenya, Mr. Justin Bundi who was held up in some engagement but was expected later. The Clerk commended the outgoing chair for the job well done and congratulated the incoming chair.

He noted that the majority of the Legislatures of the Partner States are bicameral and observed that the bicameral Legislatures were well represented.

Mrs. Immaculee Mukaruranga, Clerk of the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies

The Clerk of the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies thanked the Chairperson for the warm welcome. She also thanked EALA for giving Rwanda an opportunity to host the EAC games in 2015. She highlighted that the games were well organised, teams were disciplined and the event was a success.

Mr. Paul Wabwire - Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Uganda

He conveyed apologies from the Clerk of Uganda and indicated that the Clerk was engaged in preparations for the new term of Parliament. He further highlighted that Uganda held its General Election peacefully. He informed the meeting that the new Parliament comprises of eighty four per cent (84%) of new members and a majority are youthful therefore a lot has to be done in terms of induction.

He commended the EALA secretariat for the prompt dispatch of materials and information to respective Parliaments and indicated that this had enhanced efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Renovat Niyonzima, Secretary General of Burundi Senate

He thanked the Forum for incorporating Burundi Senate in the Forum and mentioned that this was his inaugural meeting and was happy to participate.

He stated that the meeting forms an avenue for members to participate and exchange ideas, challenges, experiences and for benchmarking. He condemned the barbaric attack which happened a week ago in Burundi.

Mr. Marc Rwabahungu, Secretary General, Burundi National Assembly

He congratulated the incoming Chair and requested Members present to pray for peace in the region and particularly for Burundi. He appealed to the Clerks to be good ambassadors of peace in the EAC region.

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF EAC SPEAKERS

7.1 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 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 Rt. Hon. Speakers are requested to note 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.

7.2 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 jurisdiction 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 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 are requested to note 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.

7.3 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 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 are requested to note 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) Commend the Parliament of Rwanda for successfully organizing and hosting the tournament.
- (vii) Parliament of Kenya confirmed to host the next Inter-Parliamentary games in December 2016.

7.4 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 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 are requested to note 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.

7.5 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 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 are requested to note the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) Commend the outgoing Chairperson of the Bureau for his leadership and organizing the 10th Meeting of the Bureau.
- (ii) The meeting of the Bureau took place on 24th April 2015 in Dar-es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania.

- (iii) The next meeting of the Bureau is taking place in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania.
- (iv) Consider a proposal the meetings of the Bureau do take place in the last week of April annually. The Bureau can however meet any other time in the year depending on the agenda.

7.6 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 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) 1st Meeting: Kampala - 16th - 28th August 2015
 - (ii) 2nd Meeting: Nairobi - 4th - 15th October 2015
 - (iii) 3rd Meeting: Kigali - 22nd - 10th Dec ember 2015
 - (iv) 4th Meeting: Arusha - 24th January - 5th February 2015
 - (v) 5th Meeting: Dar-es-Salaam - 6th - 18th March 2015
 - (vi) 6th Meeting: Arusha - 22nd May - 3rd June 2015

The Rt. Hon. Speakers are requested to note the progress on the matter as follows:-

- (i) EALA expresses its appreciation to the National Assemblies/Parliaments for continuously accepting to host EALA sessions in their National Assemblies/Parliaments.

- (ii) The EALA Commission will convene in June 2016 and draw its annual workplan for the year 2016/2017 for meetings in Partner States. The National Assemblies/Parliaments will be notified.
- (iii) To consider the proposals by National Assemblies/Parliaments that the following dates are convenient for them 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 - November/December
- (iv) 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 are requested to note the progress on the matter as follows:-

1. The 9th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki VIII) took place in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania from 2nd – 5th March 2016.

2. 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.

(c) Representation from the relevant Committees on National 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 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 are requested to note 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 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 are requested to take 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: -

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.

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.

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.

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 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 are requested to take note of the progress on the matter as follows:-

The Tanzania National Assembly has reviewed its Rules of Procedure.

7.7 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 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 is requested to note 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 Communique 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.

8.0 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 is requested to note the following progress on the matter and approve the proposed amendments -

- (i) The Secretariat drafted the schedule below and sent it the National Assemblies /Parliaments for comments.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPEAKERS' FORUM

RULE	AMENDMENT	JUSTIFICATION/REASON
RULE 2 (COMPOSITION)	<p>To be amended and read as follows:</p> <p>"The bureau shall consist of the Speakers of the National Assemblies and Speakers or Presidents of the Senate of each Partner State of the Community and the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly."</p>	<p>To include the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate as Members of the Bureau of EAC Speakers.</p>
RULE 10 (QUORUM)	<p>Amended to read as follows:</p> <p>"(2) If a Member of the Bureau is unable to attend a meeting, that Member may be represented by, his or her Deputy or another presiding officer from the Speaker's panel as the case may be, to attend the meeting and the representative so nominated shall count for purposes of quorum."</p> <p>"(3) If a Member of the Bureau ceases to be a Speaker, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly or Deputy President/Speaker of the Senate of the concerned Partner States as the case may be, shall be a Member of the Bureau until such a</p>	<p>To allow representation by the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate.</p>

	<p>time as a Speaker/President is elected.”</p> <p>“(4) A Deputy Speaker or Deputy President of the Senate attending meetings under Sub-Rule 2 shall have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Member of the Bureau on whose behalf he or she is attending.”</p>	
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The meeting proposed the following amendments to the Rules:-

RULE	AMENDMENT	JUSTIFICATION/REASON
RULE 1 (interpretation)	<p>be amended in the definition of Member of the Bureau, Presiding Officer and Speaker as follows:</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“Presiding Officer” means a person who presides over the proceedings of a National Legislature however designated of a Partner States or Assembly.</p>	<p>To include the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate as Members of the Bureau of EAC Speakers.</p> <p>To include any other presiding officer of the National Legislatures however designated or Assembly.</p>

	<p>“Speaker” means Speaker or President of National Legislature however designated of a Partner State and the Speaker of the Assembly.</p>	<p>To include the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate as Members of the Bureau of EAC Speakers</p>
<p>GENERAL AMENDMENT ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE</p>	<p>The Rules of Procedure for the Bureau of EAC Speakers be amended by deleting the words “National Assemblies/Parliaments” and substitute thereof with the words “National Legislature however designated” whenever they appear in the Rules.</p>	<p>To provide for the definition of National Assemblies /Parliaments in accordance with the definition in the Treaty.</p>

9.0 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 to take 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 Bureau to note the interest of the Republic of Kenya in hosting the EAPI.

10.0 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.

11.0 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 will present a paper on: "*The role of the Speaker in maintaining discipline and decorum in the House*".

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

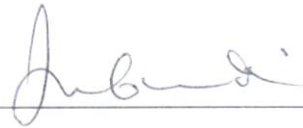
The meeting was adjourned on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 4.30 pm.

Signed by:

Dr. Thomas Kashililah
Clerk, Parliament of Tanzania



Mr. Justin Bundi, **CBS**
Clerk of the National Assembly
Parliament of Kenya



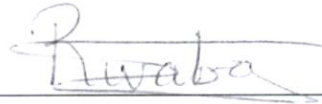
Mr. Paul Wabwire
Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Uganda



Mrs. Immaculee Mukarurangwa
Clerk, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda



Mr. Marc Rwabahungu
Secretary General, Burundi National Assembly



Mr. J. M. Nyegenye, **CBS**
Clerk of the Senate
Parliament of Kenya



Mr. Renovat Niyonzima
Secretary General, Burundi Senate



Mr. Kenneth Madete
Clerk, East African Legislative Assembly

