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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON
ITS CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIFTH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE TO 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA,
TANZANIA

SEPTEMBER 2025

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 24 SEP 2025	DAY: Wed
TABLED BY:	Hon. Makdi Mulu, MP Vice-Chairperson
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Mado

*The Directorate of Audit, Appropriations
& General Purpose Committees
The National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI.*

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
ATNR	Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources
CASSOA	Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CMP	Common Market Protocol
EAC	East African Community
EOMs	Election Observer Missions
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HPIs	High Priority Investments
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCEA	Inter University Council for East Africa
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Development Bank)
LVBC	Victoria Basin Commission
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
LVB - IWRM	Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
OSNP	- Operation Save Nile Perch
UNEP	- United Nations Environment Programme

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This Report contains the Committee's consideration of the reports of the East African Legislative Assembly, which comprises the Bills, Reports, and Resolutions transacted by the EALA at its Fourth Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly, which took place from 23rd June to 4th July, 2024, in Arusha, Tanzania. Subsequently, the various reports were transmitted to the National Assembly for deliberation, and the Reports, resolutions, and Bills of EALA were laid on the Table of the House on 1st August, 2024 and committed to the Committee as provided for in Article 65 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and subsequently committed to the Select Committee on Regional Integration for consideration and reporting.

The reports are as follows -

- a) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025;
- b) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- c) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025;
- d) Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization;
- e) Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th – 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda.
- f) Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th – 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.
- g) The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- h) The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- i) A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.

The Committee considered the various business transacted by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) during a retreat held from 8th to 9th November 2024 and incorporated the views of the Committee, as well as those of the Parliamentary Budget Office. Additionally, the Committee also took into account the submissions of the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development regarding the above reports during another retreat from 5th to 8th June 2025.

I wish to thank the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly most sincerely for the invaluable support accorded to the Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

On behalf of the Select Committee on Regional Integration and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to this House the Report of the Committee on its consideration of Business Transacted by the East African Legislative Assembly at the Fourth Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly from 23rd June to 4th July, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania.

DATE.....23/09/25..... SIGN.....
HON. (CS) MAYAKA IRENE NYAKERARIO, MP

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Committee on Regional Integration is a select Committee of the House established under Standing Order 212 of the National Assembly's Standing Orders, which sets out the mandate of the Committee. The Committee was constituted in October 2023 and reconstituted on 5th March 2025, following the adoption of a motion on membership of committees by the House, and comprises twenty-one (21) members who will serve for the remainder of the term of the 13th Parliament.
2. The Committee is also mandated to –
 - (a) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the East African Legislative Assembly;
 - (b) examine the Bills introduced in the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community;
 - (c) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the Pan African Parliament, the African, Caribbean and Pacific European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly, and other regional integration bodies; and,
 - (d) Inquire into and examine any other matter relating to regional integration generally requiring action by the House.

1.2 Committee Membership

3. The Committee comprises the following twenty-one Members -

Hon. (CS) Irene Mayaka, MP – Chairperson
Nominated

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP – Vice-Chairperson
FAFI Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
Ugenya Constituency
Movement for Democracy and Growth

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
Marsabit (CWR)
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
Kirinyaga Central Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
Kipipiri Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
Khwisero Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu, MP
Kitui Central
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
Wundanyi Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
Karachuonyo Constituency

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP
West Pokot (CWR)

Kenya Union Party

Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
Meru (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
Kericho (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
Kesses Constituency

United Democratic Party

Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
Nyaribari Chache Constituency

Kwale (CWR)

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
Bahati Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Richard Kipkemai Yegon, MP
Bomet East Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
Kimilili Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
Kitutu Chache North Constituency

United Democratic Party

1.3 Committee Secretariat

4. The secretariat facilitating the Committee comprises: –

Mr. Mohamed Jimale	-	Clerk Assistant I (Team Leader)
Ms. Jane Gathoni Ouko	-	Clerk Assistant II
Mr. Bernard Toroitich	-	Clerk Assistant III
Mr. Dominic Kyallo	-	Legal Counsel II
Mr. James Muguna	-	Research Officer I
Mr. Edwin Machuki	-	Fiscal Analyst III
Ms. Mercy Mayende	-	Media Relations Officer III
Ms. Florence Wanja	-	Communication Officer III
Mr. John Nduashi	-	Sergeant at Arms

2.0 INTRODUCTION

5. The East African Legislative Assembly is the Legislative Organ of the East African Community established under Article 9 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community. Article 49 of the Treaty bestows upon the assembly the functions of legislation, oversight, and representation. It provides for the establishment of committees by the Assembly for such purposes as it deems necessary.
6. The East African Legislative Assembly adopted the following reports at its 4th Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly, which took place from 23rd June to 4th July 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania, and subsequently forwarded to the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 65(b) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community: -
 - a. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2023/2024;
 - b. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
 - c. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025;
 - d. Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization;
 - e. Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th – 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda.
 - f. Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th – 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.
 - g. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
 - h. The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024.
 - i. A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.
7. Article 65 of the Treaty provides for relations between the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the National Assemblies of the partner States. It is in line with the Treaty provision that the reports were tabled before the National Assembly of Kenya on 1st August, 2024, and subsequently referred to the Committee on Regional Integration for consideration pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 212. The Committee considered the reports in a retreat held in Machakos County on 8th to 9th November, 2024
8. In considering the reports, the Committee sought and received submissions from the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development. The Committee's deliberations and findings, specific to each report, are briefly discussed below.

3.0 REPORT ON THE CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE TO 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

9. The Committee considered the following reports adopted by the East African Legislative Assembly: -

3.1 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025

10. The Committee was taken through the EALA's Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025.

The Committee was informed that in May 2024, the Committee on General Purpose met in Arusha to assess the EAC's 2023/2024 budget implementation and later reviewed additional information in June during a supplementary budget discussion.

The Committee considered the following salient issues regarding budget implementation: -

- (i) The programs and projects of the Organs and Institutions in the approved budget for FY 2023/24;
- (ii) The funds received from the Partner State and Development Partners from July 2023 to June 2024;
- (iii) The MoU and Financing Agreements for programs funded by development partners;
- (iv) Usage and implementation of the budget for the FY 2023/24 as approved by the Assembly;

11. Other funds of the Community utilized during the FY 2023/24 included the EAC Peace facility and all contributions and disbursements from that fund.

During his presentation, the Fiscal Analyst informed Members of the Status of Contributions by Partner States as of 22nd June 2024, noting that the contribution due for FY 2023/2024 was USD 51,464,868.00, and only USD 39,825,033.00 had been received, representing 77% of the partner states' contribution.

12. It was also observed that the Democratic Republic of Congo had not contributed any amount for the FY 2023/2024. Further, huge arrears and outstanding contributions of 24,134,620.00 and 35,774,455.00, respectively, caused delays or halted key programs in EAC institutions reliant on funding from Partner States, such as the East African Court of Justice, EALA, EACA, and the Kiswahili Commission.

3.1.2 Challenges in the Implementation of the Budget

13. Members were informed of the impending challenges encountered during FY 2023/24 budget implementation by EAC Organs, including:

- (i) The FY 2023/24 budget approval was delayed until October 3, 2023, after the Appropriation Bill was returned by the DRC and Tanzania, resulting in a late start to budget implementation.
- (ii) Delays in the contributions of partner states hindered the timely execution of programs and projects.
- (iii) Low absorption rates, particularly in institutions such as the East African Health Research Commission, were reported due to staff shortages and delayed recruitment.

14. Under-spending on some development partner-funded programs was attributed to misaligned budget cycles between the EAC and its development partners.

3.1.3 Observations and Recommendations

15. The Committee identified several issues in the budget management and operations of the EAC Secretariat and other organs:

- (i) **Budget Re-allocations Ignored:** During the FY 2023/24 budget approval, reallocations within various EAC votes were not fully entered into the Budget Management System by the finance department. This omission violates Article 132(5) of the Treaty and sections of the Budget Act. *The Committee recommends disciplinary action against the responsible officers.*
- (ii) **Non-Cooperation by EAC Secretariat:** EAC Secretariat officials refused to cooperate with the Committee, denying access to financial information, which the Committee viewed as contemptuous and possibly an attempt to conceal mismanagement.
- (iii) **Unfilled Staff Positions:** Despite vacant positions, funds continue to be disbursed for salaries, with some diverted to other programs. The Committee highlights this as a concern.

3.1.4 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions

16. The Ministry officials reported to the Committee that as at 22nd June 2024, the contributions due from the Partner States were USD 51,464,868, with payment of USD 39,825,033 representing 77% and a total outstanding of USD 35,774,455. The total arrears were USD 24,134,620. The Democratic Republic of the Congo joined the Community in July 2022, and by that time, its remittances had not been appropriated. Its first budget to the Community was during the FY 2024/2025.

17. Notably, the Republic of Kenya and several other Partner States have continued to make their contributions in full.

18. Concerning remittance to the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) and the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority (CASSOA) are self-accounting institutions (manage their own finances and budgets, operating with a degree of autonomy within the larger EAC framework). Kenya has paid up to date.

19. Regarding the observations and recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry observed that:

- i. The responsible officers in the finance department failed to enter the reallocation in the budget management system. The 43rd extraordinary council meeting directed heads of institutions and organ committees to reinstate programs whose funds had been earlier reallocated. The committee also reviewed the EALA budget and made internal reallocations to ensure that the Assembly has a maximum of 70 plenary sitting days.
- ii. Observations 2-6 are administrative and are expected to be handled as such at the Secretariat level.
- iii. During the EAC Finance and Administration Committee meeting, financing agreements are available upon request to members, with some reasons cited being strict deadlines imposed by the sponsoring entity. The due process should, however, be followed to avoid lapses. We support the Assembly's oversight of the issue.
- iv. In concurrence with recommendation 11 of the report on the need to develop guidelines to streamline budget executions in all organs and institutions of the community, and priority be given to statutory obligations like salaries and critical programs that relate to the core mandate of the respective organs and institutions.
- v. The Ministry Concurs with Recommendation 12 that any financing agreement submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval must be signed before execution.

Committee's Resolution

20. Having examined the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025, the Committee on Regional Integration adopted the report as having been proposed by Hon. David Ochieng, CBS, MP, and seconded by Hon. Richard Yegon, MP.

3.2 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024

21. The Fiscal analyst further took the Member through the EAC Supplementary Budget, indicating the following: -

- (i) The existing Regulation 19(4) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations permits a supplementary budget if the Secretary General requests additional resources for new or ongoing programs within the fiscal year.
- (ii) Regulation 19 (5) provides that a supplementary budget is warranted if (a) *the need for funds is urgent and cannot wait for the next budget*, or (b) *the required funds cannot be met through reallocation*, which informs the need to have a supplementary budget.

EAC Supplementary Budget FY 2023/24

22. On October 3, 2023, the Assembly approved the East African Appropriation Bill 2023, establishing a budget of USD 103,882,880 for the FY 2023/2024. Subsequently, during its 53rd Extra-Ordinary Meeting from April 23-25, 2024, the Council of Ministers adopted a

supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996, sourced from additional contributions from development partners and other avenues. This supplementary budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, were presented in the Assembly on April 30, 2024, by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.

23. The Assembly approved a budget of USD 103,882,880 on October 3, 2023, for FY 2023/2024.

24. The Council of Ministers adopted a supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996, sourced from development partners and other sources.

25. Further, Members were informed that the supplementary budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, were presented in the Assembly on April 30, 2024.

Table 1 summarizes the approved budget vs the supplementary budget for FY 2023/2024.

Table 1: EAC FY 2023/2024 Approved Vs Supplementary Budget (Amount in USD)

Organ/Institution	Approved	Supp.	Change	Changes
EAC-Secretariat	50,931,553.00	54,150,935.00	3,219,382.00	6.32%
East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	4,450,488.00	4,478,538.00	28,050.00	0.63%
East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	17,681,365.00	17,798,525.00	117,160.00	0.66%
Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	8,471,980.00	10,974,157.00	2,502,177.00	29.53%
East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTCO)	2,016,543.00	2,041,543.00	25,000.00	1.24%
East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	1,502,535.00	1,502,535.00	-	0.00%
East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	2,193,811.00	2,496,234.00	302,423.00	13.79%
East African Competition Authority (EACA)	1,391,667.00	1,391,667.00	-	0.00%
Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)	12,394,945.00	16,194,205.00	3,799,260.00	30.65%
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	2,807,993.00	3,963,537.00	1,155,544.00	41.15%
Total	103,842,880.00	114,991,876.00	11,148,996.00	10.74%

Source: EAC Submissions

As indicated in Table 1, the supplementary budget under consideration represents 10.74% of the approved budget of the Community for the financial year 2023/24. This exceeds the 5% limit of supplementary spending pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Budget Act, 2009.

26. Supplementary Budget Consideration for 2023/24.

- Represents 10.74% of the approved Community budget.
- Exceeds 5% limit of supplementary spending-Section 7(1) of the Budget Act, 2009

Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development Submissions

27. The Ministry, in their submissions, informed the Committee that:

- i. In the East African Community (EAC) context, a supplementary budget is a request for additional financial resources beyond the originally approved budget for the financial year. The Secretary General submits it to the Council for approval to fund new or existing programs and activities. This mechanism enables the EAC to address unforeseen circumstances or emerging priorities that cannot be accommodated within the initial budget. The EAC Financial Rules and Regulations govern the process of requesting and approving supplementary budgets.
- ii. In the Kenyan context, a supplementary budget, as outlined in Article 223 of the Constitution, is an additional budget proposed during the fiscal year to address unforeseen circumstances, revenue shortfalls, or to realign the initial budget estimates. It is essentially a mechanism to adjust the original budget during its implementation, often due to events like emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, or to incorporate externally funded projects.
- iii. Under the Programs and projects in the supplementary budget in the financial year 2023/2024, these have been traced and confirmed, totalling USD 11,148,996 in the Council of Ministers report as per table 1 of the main report (page 4)
- iv. Observation 3-6 administrative remedial action expected from EAC SG's office.

Committee Observations and Recommendations

28. The Committee resolved that there is a need to hold a roundtable with all Committees of Partner States that deal with matters of integration and the EALA's budget Committee to discuss the challenges of delay in remittance and non-remittance, which have led to poor funding of the EAC organs.

- i. Members were of the view that partner states should contribute according to their GDP, unlike the current formula, which requires all members to contribute equally.
- ii. Members were also of the opinion that sanctions should be imposed on Partner states that do not meet part of their bargain in terms of contribution.
- iii. The Committee also resolved that the Summit should devise stringent measures against perpetrators of corruption.
- iv. There is a need to amend the EAC Treaty and incorporate the aspect of the Public Finance Management Act.

- v. The Committee also requested that the Council of Ministers urge Partner States to provide political support for the success of the EAC and require that any prospective new members pay their financial contributions upfront as a precondition for admission.

Committee Resolution

The Committee resolved to adopt the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, having been proposed by Hon. Naomi Waqo, MP, and seconded by Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP.

3.3 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025

- 29. The Fiscal analyst led Members through an overview of the Report by the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025.
- 30. Members were informed that pursuant to the provisions of Articles 49(2) and 132 of the Treaty. As further amplified by Rule 81 (c), (e), and (g), Annex 5 (f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on General Purpose proceeded to consider the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure FY 2024/2025.

EAC FY 2024/25 Budget Allocations to the EAC Global Priorities

- 31. The Committee was informed that the proposed budget for the FY 2024/2025 is aligned with the EAC global priorities adopted by the Council and is expected to result in the following outcomes:
 - i. Strengthened peace and security, leading to improved inter-state relations and stability in the region;
 - ii. Increased intra-trade and enhanced access to the international export markets;
 - iii. Accelerated implementation of the road map for the attainment of the EAC Monetary Union;
 - iv. Improved quality infrastructure and increased level of e-business opportunities leading to enhanced service delivery and competitiveness.

The table below indicates FY 2024/25 Budget Allocations to the EAC Global Priorities (Amount in USD)

Global Priority	Budget Estimates
1) Strengthening regional peace, security, political and governance mechanisms to maintain stability in the Community.	5,100,533.00

2) Enhancing intra-regional trade and investment through an enabling business environment	4,729,841.00
3) Establishing requisite institutions and accelerating harmonization of fiscal and monetary policies towards attaining prerequisites for the East African Monetary Union	10,428,665.00
4) Develop a multi-sectoral infrastructure to enhance connectivity in the region's transport and ICT sectors, facilitating timely services.	6,167,238.00
5) Enhancing the social and productive sectors to increase productivity and raise the standards of living for East Africans.	20,265,752.00
6) Enhancing the capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfil their mandates and raise awareness on the EAC integration process.	66,292,413.00
Total	112,984,442.00

Source: EAC Submissions

This allocation reflects the East African Community's priorities in areas such as peace and security, economic and social integration, infrastructure development, and institutional capacity building.

Observations and Recommendations by EALA Committee

32. The Committee reviewed the programs and projects of the organs and institutions and noted the following:

- i. A substantial number of the programs/activities are not linked to the four pillars of the EAC integration.
- ii. There is duplication of some programs/activities.
- iii. Some programs/activities are not aligned with the core mandates of the Organs and Institutions.
- iv. DSAs, tickets, the hire of conference facilities, and ushers cover the cost of most planned programs/activities.
- v. Some organs and institutions deliberately split their programs into micro-activities for officers to earn DSAs, yet these activities have no impact on the integration process. These institutions/departments include EASTECO, LVFO, and the Virtual Office of Political Federation.

33. The General Purpose Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. That the Assembly should improve the reallocations and reprioritise programs and projects and accordingly appropriate funds for their implementation.
- ii. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly direct the Secretary General to make appropriate adjustments in the EAC Budget Management System to accommodate the rationalization/reallocations as approved by the august House in the budget.
- iii. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly direct the Secretary General to submit and lay before the Assembly the final signed copy of the approved budget at the first sitting of the Assembly in FY 2024/24.

The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development's Submissions

34. The Ministry informed the Committee that the disbursement of Partner States' contributions is an area affecting the operations and programs of the community and is receiving various interventions being explored to mitigate the issue, such as exploring sustainable funding mechanisms. Apart from the Republic of South Sudan (USD 8,610,255), the Republic of Burundi (USD 10,085,384), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (USD 14,704,248), which have not honoured their commitments as given during the 56th Extraordinary Council of Ministers, the rest of the Partner States, which had arrears, have honoured their commitments.

35. Additionally, delays in filling vacant positions in EAC Organs and Institutions. In their last meeting, the Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council in August 2025 to consider reports of technical experts on job descriptions, the Quota points manual, and other critical Human Resource matters.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

- i. The Committee recommended that there is a need for the Committees of Regional Integration to be involved in the budget-making process of EALA, from the stage when a Bill is introduced.
- ii. Members observed that the EALA Financial audit should be timely and justifiable so that EAC organs are accountable.
- iii. The Committee proposes that the Assembly urge the Council of Ministers to create a clear path for the full integration of South Sudan, DRC, and Somalia.
- iv. The Committee further recommends that the Assembly resolves that the implementation of this roadmap shall be subject to the concerned Partner States honouring their financial contributions to the Community.
- v. The East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers, particularly the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development, should explain why the delays in disbursing Partner States' contributions to the EAC Budget result in delayed implementation of regional commitments and low budget absorption rates.

Committee's Resolution

36. Having examined the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025, as proposed by Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP, and seconded by Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP.

3.4 Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

37. The Committee was taken through the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR), which conducted an on-spot assessment to evaluate the implementation of projects by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO). The evaluation focused on the contribution of these institutions to food security and climate change resilience, in line with the East African Community's (EAC) objectives on environmental and natural resource management as outlined in Chapters 18, 19, and 20 of the EAC Treaty.

38. The primary objective of the on-site assessment was to evaluate the implementation of ongoing projects by LVBC and LVFO, and to consider the contributions of the two institutions to food security and resilience to climate change.

Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development Submissions

The Ministry submitted as follows: -

3.4.1 Lake Victoria Basin Commission

3.4.1.1 Introduction

39. Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) is a specialized institution of the East African Community (EAC) responsible for coordinating the sustainable management and development of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The Commission was established under Article 33 of the Protocol for the Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin, which was signed and ratified on 29th November 2003 and 1st December 2004, respectively, and the Lake Victoria Basin Act, 2022.

40. LVBC is, to date, the only EAC institution hosted by Kenya. The Government of Kenya has supported the Institution from its inception in 2004. The Government offered a prime piece of land on the shores of the Lake, measuring 2.8 Hectares, where the Commission is currently building its headquarters, which will be its permanent home. Currently, the Institution is housed at the Nyanza Regional Headquarters (Prosperity Building).

41. The Commission has mobilized resources for several projects within the Basin, which have a profound impact on the residents: Water Supply Projects, Sanitation projects, Catchment restoration projects, Projects to enhance the safety of navigation in the Lake, as well as the

restoration of the Water quality laboratory in Kisumu after it was burnt during the 2007/08 post-election violence.

3.4.1.2 Projects under LVBC

3.4.2.1 Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (LVB-IWRM) project

42. Lake Victoria Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (LVB IWRMP) is a regional programme coordinated by Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and implemented in four Partner States of the East African Community (EAC): Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania through implementation of High Priority Investments (HPIs) in Kampala Uganda; Mwanza, Tanzania; Kisumu, Kenya; and Kigali, Rwanda.
43. The Programme is funded through grants by the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, provided via KfW Development Bank to the East African Community (EAC).
44. The overall objective of the programme is to improve water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the Lake Victoria basin. The project targets to upgrade sanitation in informal settlements for Kisumu, Mwanza, Kampala and Kigali
45. Under this project, the following projects to reduce untreated effluents into Lake Victoria are undertaken:
 - i. Mwanza Sewer Network Upgrade Project (Mwanza HPI);
 - ii. Kisumu Informal Settlement Sanitation Project (Kisumu HPI);
 - iii. Sanitation Infrastructure in the South–East of the Luzira Catchment Area (Kampala HPI); and
 - iv. HPI); and
 - v. Kigali Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant Project (Kigali HPI).
46. In Kisumu City, the HPI is to improve Sanitation in Manyatta, an informal settlement, to benefit over 200,000 residents through; extension of sewer network (Last Mile Connectivity), on-site sanitation facilities, water supply extension and building capacity of the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA), Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO) and the County Government of Kisumu.
47. Detailed Technical Designs were completed in November 2024.
48. As of February, this year, clearance from the KfW on the evaluation report was being awaited to proceed with the issuance of the tender documents.

3.4.1.3 Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT)

49. Aims at improving maritime transport, security, and safety of navigation on Lake Victoria for improved Lake Transport (people, goods, and services), trade, and tourism, which are key ingredients of integration. Specifically, it will:

- i. Improve maritime communication network coverage and functionality;
- ii. Operationalize the regional MRCC and two sub-centres in Entebbe and Kisumu;
- iii. Improve the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships in Lake Victoria;
- iv. Establish, equip, and strengthen the emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) Centres;
- v. Strengthen weather forecast services around and on the lake and other value-added services;
- vi. Develop the East African Maritime Transport Strategy and Lake Victoria Development program;
- vii. Strengthen the capacity of designated agencies in Partner States;
- viii. Support livelihood efforts of women groups around SARs within BMUs; and
- ix. Facilitate the implementation of the Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 and its Regulations and Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria.

50. Kenya has embarked on the construction of the National Maritime Rescue and Communication Centre in Kisumu, and other Search and Rescue (SAR) centres will be constructed in the other riparian counties along Lake Victoria (Busia, Siaya, Homa Bay, and Migori).

51. The Council of Ministers has designated the code 110 as an emergency rescue number within Lake and Kenya, and the Communications Authority has already operationalized the code.

3.4.1.4 Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin Project

52. The Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB) is a regional project implemented by LVBC in five Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda). The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change by building climate resilience. The implementation timeframe was from 28th June 2018 to 31st August 2023. The Budget was US\$5 Million. The project supported concrete adaptation interventions by piloting ecosystem-based Adaptation, Water Conservation, and climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices in selected climate hotspots in the LVB.

3.4.1.5 Project Achievements in Kenya

53. Projects were implemented in Siaya and Busia Counties, involving the provision of the following to local communities to enhance their coping capacities to Climate Change: boreholes, Fish cages, beekeeping, greenhouses, and Hatcheries, which were handed over to the local communities.

54. The LVBC is coordinating Partner States in preparation of the 2nd phase of this programme.

3.4.1.6 The Scale WAYS Project

55. Funded by the Austrian Development Agency, Scale WAYS received a grant of EUR 1.6 million (approximately EUR 0.433 million for LVBC). Initially, this was a three (3) years

research project (2019-2021), but it was extended to November 2022 and was further extended for four months with an additional Euros 20,000.

56. The goal of this project is to contribute to the resilience of land and water resources, the improved health of ecosystems, and human well-being in LVB through research. This was in response to the following threats:

- i. Rapid increase of population and economic growth;
- ii. degradation of the environment and ecosystem; and
- iii. The impact of projected climate change

57. The project was a soft intervention project that generated several reports based on studies conducted within the Lake Victoria Basin.

58. The duration of the project is five years, with a closing date set for 30th November 2025.

3.4.1.7 The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project

59. A World Bank-supported project of a US\$30 million grant to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). The project's development objective is to enhance mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin.

60. The specific objectives are to review and prepare recommendations to harmonize existing water quality management policies in the NEL sub-basin and develop a Regional Water Quality Management Strategy and Action Plan. The completed activities include:

- i. Regional Inception Workshop held in January 2023;
- ii. The stakeholder analysis and stakeholder engagement plan report were completed in April 2023;
- iii. Situational assessment undertaken (July – August 2023), report validated.
- iv. Draft harmonized policy on water quality management submitted to LVBC on 31st October 2023. The report was validated by a regional workshop from 27th to 28th November 2023;
- v. The draft final water quality policy was presented to the Sectoral Council in February 2024. One Partner State requested a one-month extension for the internal process, and;
- vi. External audit completed on 31st January 2024

3.4.1.8 Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Headquarters

61. The proposed LVBC Headquarters is designed as an ultramodern office complex with two distinct wings. The Partner States fully fund the project.

62. The Commission received its initial funding of USD 1.35 million in April 2019. A further USD 950,000 was received in June 2022 towards the second phase, and the final amount of USD 1.24 million was received in January 2024. For the first phase, the site was handed over in December 2020, and construction commenced in January 2021 and continued until 31st August 2022.

63. The Government of Kenya, through the State Department of Public Works, offered technical expertise to the project. The first contractor, *Tareef Enterprises LTD*, took over the site in December 2020, and construction commenced in January 2021 until 31st August 2022, when it was terminated due to poor workmanship. *JV China Jiangxi International* was awarded the contract for phase II, as well as to rectify and complete phase I. The site was handed over on 25 July 2023, and work progressed well.
64. The major construction works are now complete, and the building is ready for use after the installation of electricity. The LVBC has written to the SDEAC requesting the government's support in having the power connected to the building to enable them to move and occupy it.

3.4.1.9 Resource Mobilization Initiatives by the LVBC

65. The LVBC reported that they are continuing with resource mobilization efforts and have held discussions seeking support with the following organizations, among others:
- i. KfW mission in February 2024 for discussion on the next phase of support to the IWRM Program in LVB.
 - ii. IFAD to co-design a Climate Resilience Agricultural and Food Systems Investment Program for LVB
 - iii. African Development Bank (AfDB) designed a preparatory funding program on Transboundary Climate Resilient Agricultural Water- Food Nexus;
 - iv. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a joint project on implementing the Transboundary Mara River Basin Integrated Watershed, to be submitted to Global Environment Facility (GEF)

3.4.1.10 The Committee recommendations to the Assembly

66. The Committee made several recommendations to the Assembly (EALA), including commending the LVBC for its efforts in mobilizing resources for various programs aimed at developing the Lake Victoria Basin. Several recommendations to the Partner States to ensure the sustainability of Lake Victoria and its Basin as well as the capacity of the Lake to continue supporting the people living within the Basin.

3.4.2 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)

3.4.2.1 Introduction

67. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation was established by the Convention for the Establishment of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organizations signed on 30th June, 1994, by three Contracting Parties (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania).
68. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation aims at fostering cooperation among the Contracting Parties, harmonizing national measures for the sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the EAC water bodies, and developing and adopting conservation and management measures. Its Program areas include Fisheries Management and Development, Aquaculture Management and Development, Fisheries Resources

Monitoring and Research, and Fish Quality Assurance, Trade and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products.

3.4.2.2 Ongoing Projects for Food Security

3.4.2.2.1 European Union (EU)-EAC True Fish Project

69. The EAC's TRUE-FISH project, funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11) with a total grant of €10.15 million, aims to enhance aquaculture development in the EAC region. The primary goal of the project is to foster a competitive, inclusive, and sustainable commercial aquaculture sector that supports economic growth while ensuring the responsible management of natural resources within the Lake Victoria basin.
70. The project, which started in December 2018 for a five-year life, has been extended to end in December 2025 to allow for the organization of the World Aquaculture Safari 25 Conference, to take place in Uganda in June 2025
71. The EU-TRUEFISH project has catalysed sustainable aquaculture development in the Lake Victoria Basin by addressing barriers in business, skills, and sustainability, especially for the riparian counties of Migori, Homabay, Kisumu, Siaya, and Busia. Through capacity building, policy harmonization, and regional collaboration, it has strengthened livelihoods and biodiversity.

3.4.2.2.2 ECOFISH Program

72. Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the EA, SA, and the IO Region – ECOFISH Programme. The project, which began in 2020, was initially slated to end in September 2024 but has now been granted a one-year no-cost extension, extending its completion date to September 2025. The purpose of the project is to support the sustainable management and development of fisheries resources in Lake Victoria.
73. Projects under Development
 - i. Community Fisheries Management & Sustainable Fisheries Project (LVFO, FAO, University of Iceland & EAC Partner States);
 - ii. Ecosystem Resilience and Restoration of Lake Victoria Basin and Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation Project (Ziwa Letu Project) > 10 million USD (LVFO, LVBC, UNEP, Regional Universities, MDAs, and Non-State Actors);
 - iii. Promoting climate change mitigation and food security in Lake Victoria fishery and aquaculture value chains (LVFO, FISH ASSOCIATIONS, and AfDB – USD 12 million).

74. These projects are at the proposal and concept development stage.

3.4.2.3 Contribution of Fish to Food Security and Economic Development

75. The EAC needs approximately 4.2 million tonnes of fish annually to meet the global per capita consumption of 21 kg, but only produces approximately 1.7 million tonnes, resulting in a shortfall of about 2.5 million tonnes.

76. The deficit in demand is being addressed through some initiatives as follows: -

- i. Operation Save Nile Perch (OSNP) program with a work plan for implementation from funds contributed by Partner States to LVFO. The program aims at protecting the Nile Perch from overfishing and the catching of immature fish.
- ii. Joint regionally synchronized enforcement operations to fight illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing took place in five stations, namely Kisumu, Homa Bay, Siaya, Migori, and Busia, from 26th August 2024 to 10th September 2024. This led to the arrest of substantial illegalities on the lake, including promoting compliance and awareness of stakeholders to work together to address issues affecting the sustainability of the fisheries resource for the benefit of the current and future generations.
- iii. Policy Guidance on *Rastrineobola argentea* (Omena) Fishery in Lake Victoria, aimed at improving quality, cost-effectiveness, and increasing profit for approximately 220,000 fishers from the riparian countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, is nearing completion.
- iv. Guidelines for implementation of the East African standards EAS 826 for sun-dried silver cyprinid (Omena). Guidelines are awaiting validation by September 15, 2025, to improve quality along the value chain for human consumption, as currently 70% of Omena ends up being used for animal feed.
- v. The Cage Fish Farming Policy 2022 guides the management and development of cage operations in the region, supporting improvements in fish production to bridge the shortfall.

3.4.2.4 Policies, Guidelines and Strategies that Enhance Food Security and Climate Change Resilience in the EAC

- i. The East African Community Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018;
- ii. The East African Community Cage Fish Farming Policy;
- iii. Strategic plans – The EAC Development Strategies - Latest 2021-22 – 2025- 26;
- iv. Fisheries Management Plans I, II, III, Latest IV (2021-2025); and
- v. Nile Perch Management plans I, II, Latest III (2021 – 2025)

77. These policies are at different stages of implementation by LVFO and Partner States.

3.4.2.5 Recommendations

- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVFO and the relevant Sectoral Council to fast-track the process of expanding the mandate of LVFO and the change of its name to enable the institution to operate throughout the region: *(under discussion – Partner States consultations took place and the validation is pending before a Multi Sectoral Council of Ministers meeting is convened to deliberate and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers. Kenya is opposed to the expansion of the Mandate beyond the Lake Basin, due to strategic National interests.*
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds for the delayed expansion of the LVFO headquarters in Jinja.

- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare and present before the Assembly the Bill for a law to operationalize the expanded mandate of the LVFO; (*issue of mandate is yet to be finalized – as in I above*)
- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct all Partner States to reimburse the VAT they collected from all organs and institutions of the Community; (*mainly affects the host country, Uganda*)
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare a regulation to enable organs and institutions of the EAC to claim a refund of VAT and other taxes when they undertake activities outside their hosting Partner States;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to invest more in fish farming to enable the EAC meet its expected demand of 4.5 million tonnes of fish per year; - (*Kenya through the State Department for Fisheries and Blue Economy has been promoting aquaculture*) and Urge the Council of Ministers to direct LVFO and Partner States to continue investing in modern technologies.

Committee observations

78. Members observed that there is a need for increased commitment from Partner States to enable institutions of the EAC to operate optimally for the benefit of the East African region.

Committee Resolution

Having examined the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization, the Committee on Regional Integration has adopted the Report on the proposal Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP, and seconded by Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP.

3.5 Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th - 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda

79. The Committee was taken through the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th - 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda as follows –
80. The report highlighted the various challenges faced by the National Electoral Commissions in conducting elections in Uganda and Rwanda, as well as the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution's observations and recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

3.5.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions

81. The objectives of the activity were to:

- i. Evaluate the electoral processes in the Republic of Uganda and Rwanda.
- ii. Identify the challenges encountered during the national general elections.
- iii. Appreciate the role played by the Electoral Commission; and
- iv. Make recommendations for strengthening electoral processes for the benefit of all Partner states.

3.5.2 Key observations from the oversight activity

82. The Committee noted the following:

- i. The EAC is founded on principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law, accountability, and transparency.
- ii. Credible elections are the cornerstone of democratic governance and are essential for regional peace, stability, and integration.
- iii. The critical areas for improvement to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections across the region, aligning with the fundamental principles of good governance enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community; and
- iv. Commendable practices and areas requiring urgent attention to enhance electoral integrity, foster inclusivity, and build public trust in the electoral processes within the respective Partner States and the region as well.

83. From the findings, the following policy directions can be explored to address the identified issues and foster an environment conducive to democratic, peaceful, and credible general elections in the region:

- i. Partner States to sustain ongoing reviews of their electoral laws and regulations to address inconsistencies and gaps identified in the EALA report. This includes reviewing provisions related to campaign financing, voter registration, dispute resolution mechanisms, and the role of security agencies, among others.
- ii. Implement measures that further ensure the operational, financial, and administrative independence of the respective National Electoral Commissions.
- iii. Inculcate continuous civic and voter education programs, targeting all segments of society, focusing on rights, responsibilities, and electoral processes.
- iv. Put in place enforcement of transparent campaign finance regulations, including expenditure limits and public disclosure requirements, to address monetization of politics.
- v. Enhance the existing forums and exchange programs for EMBs, parliamentary committees, and civil society organizations across Partner States to share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in electoral management.

- vi. Establish clear and continuous processes for voter registration, verification, and regular cleaning of voter registers to eliminate discrepancies, multiple registrations, and deceased voters.
- vii. Entrench political party responsibility through adherence to democratic principles within political parties, including in their primaries, and fostering inter-party dialogue and tolerance.
- viii. Encourage the adoption of appropriate and secure electoral technologies (e.g., for voter registration, biometric identification, and results transmission).
- ix. Implement targeted capacity building programs for EMB staff and commissioners on electoral management, technology, logistics, voter education, and dispute resolution.
- x. Implement affirmative action policies and initiatives to increase the participation of women and young people in all aspects of the electoral process, from voter registration to candidacy and election management.

3.5.2 Operationalization of the EAC Elections Observer Missions

84. The Community has a growing track record of deploying Election Observer Missions (EOMs) across its Partner States, contributing to the region's democratic development.
85. The EOMs are deployed in respective Partner States in line with the Community's obligation of enhancing good governance and a culture of democracy as enshrined in Article 6(d), 7(2), and 123 (3)(c) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.
86. Pursuant to the EAC Principles for Election Observation and Evaluation 2012, the objectives of the EAC Election Observation Missions are to:
- i. Identify strengths, opportunities, challenges, and weaknesses that can be harnessed into best practices and lessons for the region through peer learning by the electoral Management bodies.
 - ii. Assess the extent to which the electoral outcome reflects the will of the people in line with international, continental, and regional norms and standards governing democratic conduct of elections; and
 - iii. Make recommendations: to strengthen election processes for the benefit of not only respective Partner States but for the EAC region as a whole.
87. While challenges remain in ensuring the full implementation of recommendations and fostering truly level playing fields in all Partner States, the EAC Election Observer Missions have consistently demonstrated a commitment to promoting democratic ideals and played a valuable role in fostering greater transparency and accountability in the region's electoral landscape.

3.5.3 Observations on the Committee's recommendations to the Assembly

88. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds that will cover the whole Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to carry out electoral observer missions during elections within the region.

- (i) There is a need to strengthen the capacity and mandate of EAC Election Observation Missions to conduct comprehensive and independent assessments of national general elections.
 - (ii) This is dependent on the available budgetary provisions for the missions.
89. Urge the Secretariat to prepare and present before the Assembly the reports from electoral observer missions;
- (i) EAC Election Observer Mission reports are generally submitted to the Electoral Commission of the respective Partner State for consideration and implementation of recommendations, and the EAC Council of Ministers for noting.
 - (ii) While members of National Assemblies are sometimes included in observer missions, and the reports are relevant to their legislative oversight function, there is no consistent or mandated process for these reports to be formally submitted and debated in national assemblies across all EAC Partner States.
 - (iii) It's plausible that EAC Election Observer Mission reports could be discussed within EALA, especially concerning the broader principles of democratic governance within the Community.
90. Urge the Council of Ministers to urge Partner States to invest in modern technologies, and mostly to have national identification agencies link up with election management bodies to have an easy voter register update - an ongoing process in most Partner States, subject to the respective Electoral Management Body's capacity and budgetary provisions.
91. Urge the Council of Ministers to encourage Partner States to adopt electoral processes that promote the inclusiveness of youth, Persons with disabilities, and are gender-sensitive - an ongoing initiative in most of the Partner States.

Committee Observations

92. Members observed that the Select Committee on Regional Integration should be involved in election observer missions during elections in the East African Community partner states.
93. Consequently, the Parliamentary Service Commission needs to allocate funds that will enable the Committee to conduct electoral observer missions during elections within the region.
94. Further, Members observed that there are many lessons to learn from Rwanda, among them the preservation of a violence-free and peaceful environment witnessed during the entire election period, the voluntary initiative promoted during the electoral process where the youths assist in various activities of the electoral process voluntarily, as well as ensuring a gender sensitive and inclusive electoral process.

Committee Resolution

Having considered the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of conducting national general elections in Rwanda and Uganda from 15th to 22nd May 2024, the Committee adopted the report. Hon. Christopher Aseka proposed the adoption. Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP, seconded it.

3.6 Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

95. The Committee was briefed on the report of the Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN), which was established in 2019 to leverage the role of parliamentarians in advancing the region's food security and nutrition agenda.
96. The alliance consists of Members of Parliament from various Eastern African countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and representatives from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). The alliance aims to position food security and nutrition at the forefront of political and legislative discussions, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the broader development objectives of the member countries and regional economic communities (RECs).
97. The EAPA-FSN General Assembly Meeting was held at the Mövenpick Hotel & Residences in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenya National Parliament and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation). The event included three main activities:
 - i. Technical Seminar: Focused on climate action, food systems, and nutrition. The seminar featured expert presentations and discussions among MPs on current legal and policy gaps, opportunities, and priority actions for advancing food systems transformation in the region.
 - ii. Statutory Meeting: Addressed the statutory requirements of the EAPA-FSN, including reports from member countries, the adoption of recommendations, and the planning of future activities.
 - iii. Field Visit: Participants visited various projects in Kiambu County, Kenya, to learn about successful agricultural practices that could be replicated in their countries.
98. The 2023 Eastern African Parliamentary Dialogue focused on exploring legal issues and parliamentary actions to strengthen the linkages between climate action and food system transformation. The specific objectives were:
 - i. To sensitize Members of Parliament on the interconnections between diets, food systems, and climate change.
 - ii. To discuss policy options and financing mechanisms to accelerate climate-smart food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.
 - iii. To review the achievements, successes, challenges, and lessons learned by the EAPA-FSN and national alliances.

- iv. To deliberate on the conduct of the Alliance's affairs, including performance, challenges, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

99. Additionally, the 2023 GAM yielded several key recommendations aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition in Eastern Africa. These recommendations included:

- i. Committee Members were encouraged to create and support legal frameworks that facilitate the transformation of food systems and improve nutrition outcomes. This includes developing laws and policies that promote responsible investment in agriculture and ensure that the right to adequate food is realized. Committee Members were urged to advocate for increased funding for the agriculture sector. Despite commitments made in the Maputo Declaration, many African countries have not met the target of allocating 10% of their national budgets to agriculture. Increased investment is crucial to support sustainable agricultural practices and build resilient food systems.
- ii. Parliamentarians were encouraged to support sustainable climate-responsive agriculture practices and nature-based solutions. This includes promoting urban planning, energy transition, and early warning systems to mitigate the effects of climate change on food security and nutrition.
- iii. Committee Members were advised to engage with academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector in efforts to raise awareness among consumers about food choices and the benefits of consuming locally produced food. Collaboration with various stakeholders is crucial to creating a comprehensive approach to addressing food security and nutrition challenges.

100. The meeting highlighted the potential of agribusiness to create job opportunities for young people and to prevent urban migration. MPs were encouraged to support initiatives that empower youth in agriculture and to provide them with the necessary resources and training to succeed.

Recommendations by the EAPA-FSN 4th General Assembly

- i. Develop a Framework Law on family farming that countries can use to develop country specific legislation;
- ii. Support partner countries in developing Family Farming legislation or in mainstreaming Family Farming into agriculture-related policies, legislation, or strategies.
- iii. Induction of the new Members of EAPA FSN, especially on the information concerning their roles, such as Alliance vision and objective, rules and procedures of EAPA FSN organs, responsibilities, and partnership.

3.6.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development

101. The Ministry, in its submission on this matter, informed the Committee that the 2023 Eastern African Parliamentary Dialogue explored legal issues and key parliamentary

actions to foster linkages between climate action and food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.

Comment on the Recommendations of the Forum

102. The Ministry, in its submissions, informed the Committee that Family farming is a system of agriculture that is managed and operated by a family, typically characterized by the use of family labour and the cultivation of land that is owned or leased by the family. It encompasses a variety of farming practices, including crop production, livestock rearing, aquaculture, and agroforestry. Family farms are often small to medium-sized operations, playing a crucial role in food production, rural livelihoods, and the sustainability of agricultural systems.

103. Family farming is integral to the agricultural landscape of East Africa. It aligns closely with the EAC's commitments to enhancing food security, reducing poverty, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering regional cooperation and integration. By recognizing and supporting family farming, the EAC can make significant strides towards achieving its agricultural and food security objectives.

Committee Observations and Recommendations

104. The Committee observed that there is a need for Members of the Select Committee on Regional Integration to be involved in the activities of such regional alliances.

105. Members recommended the incorporation of a representative(s) of the Committee in the membership of such alliances that advance the integration agenda.

Committee's Resolution

The Committee resolved to adopt the Report of the EALA Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya, having been proposed by Hon. Elizabeth Kailemia, MP, and seconded by Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP.

3.7 The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 and the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024

106. The Committee was informed that the two bills had been passed.

3.7.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development submissions

107. The ministry reported to the committee that:

- i. In addition to the USD 103,882,880 budget for the Community for FY 2023/2024, a supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996 was allocated, representing additional resources from Development Partners and other sources.
- ii. Among the critical areas covered and which have been fruitful is negotiation between EAC and the Federal Republic of Somalia, which is now a member

Partner State of EAC. Political Confederation-related activities (as contained in pages 4-9 of the main report) and construction of the LVBC Headquarters (USD 1,263,679)

- iii. A key challenge faced by the Community that impacts progress on the implementation of various programs and planned activities is the delay in the disbursement of Partner States' contributions to the EAC Budget. As of the financial year 2023/24, contributions were at 18%, with Uganda's contribution of USD 2.3 million standing at 33%, Rwanda's contribution of USD 873,000 standing at 12%, and Kenya's contribution of USD 7 million representing 100%. Burundi had offset its outstanding balance by USD 1 million. The emphasis, therefore, is on Partner States to honour their commitments as well as comply with the directive of the 45th Meeting of the Council to settle their outstanding contributions.
- iv. An appropriation of USD 112,984,442 was appropriated to meet expenditure for the Organs and Institutions of the Community for the Financial year ending 30th June 2025, as shown below:

EAC Secretariat	51,677,120
EACJ	4,858,553
EALA	20,469,040
LVBC	7,787,519
IUCEA	17,287,618
LVFO	3,109,586
EASTEKO	2,177,192
EAKC	1,641,445
EAHRC	2,451,157
EACA	1,525,212
TOTAL	112,984,442

- 108. Currently, the community is in an adverse financial situation that has affected the delivery of its mandate and the payment of statutory obligations, including staff salaries.
- 109. There is a concerted effort to have Partner States disburse their contributions due for FY 2024/2025 in line with EAC Financial Rules and Regulations, 2012, to facilitate implementation of the approved budget.

3.8. A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi

- 110. The committee was taken through the Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.
- 111. The report highlighted the assembly's tribute to Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi, who joined the assembly in December 2022 to represent the United Republic of Tanzania for a five-year term in the 5th Assembly, from 2022 to 2027. She was a member of the

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism, and then the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution.

112. The assembly registered its appreciation to the Parliament of Tanzania and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for sending and electing the late Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi to the Assembly to make the enormous and invaluable contribution that she made to the East African Community until her untimely demise on 13th June, 2024, in Arusha, Tanzania.

4.0 COMMITTEE RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

113. The Committee, having received input from the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development, made the following resolutions:

- i. The Committee recommends that the East African Legislative Assembly urge the Council of Ministers to ensure that Partner States contribute to the EAC budget based on their respective Gross Domestic Product (GDP), rather than the current formula where all Partner States contribute equally.
- ii. The Committee also recommended an amendment to Article 143 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community to ensure that sanctions can be imposed on Partner States that default in meeting their financial and other obligation under the EAC Treaty. This will lead to the enhancement of financial accountability and efficiency.
- vi. The Committee further recommended that the Assembly resolves that the implementation of the budget road-map shall be contingent upon the concerned Partner States honouring their financial commitments to the Community.
- v. The Committee tasked the Council of Ministers with convincing Partner States to provide political support for the success of the EAC, and to establish a precondition requiring any prospective new Partner to pay their financial obligations upfront before admission.

Signed: Date: 23/09/25

HON. (CS) MAYAKA IRENE NYAKERARIO, MP

(CHAIRPERSON)



ANNEXURES




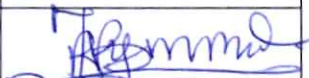

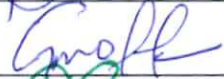
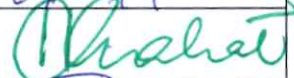



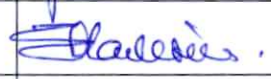



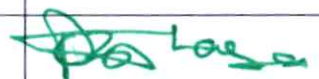
1. Adoption List
2. Committee Minutes
3. Presentations/Submissions by the East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development
4. Bills, Reports, and Resolutions transacted by EALA

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ADOPTION LIST

Adoption of the Report on the Businesses Transacted by the EALA at the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 5th Assembly from 23rd June - 4th July, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania

We the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

No.	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP- Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Farah Salah, MP – Vice Chairperson	
3.	Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP	
4.	Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP	
5.	Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP	
6.	Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP	
7.	Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP	
8.	Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP	
9.	Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP	
10.	Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP	
11.	Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP	
12.	Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP	
13.	Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP	
14.	Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP	
15.	Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP	
16.	Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP	
17.	Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP	
18.	Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP	
19.	Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP	
20.	Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP	
21.	Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP	

MINUTES OF THE 19TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 2025, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 22, 5TH FLOOR BUNGE TOWER, AT 12.00 NOON.

PRESENT

1. Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario MP
 2. Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP
 3. Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP
 4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
 5. Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP
 6. Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP
 7. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
 8. Hon. Richard K. Yegon, MP
 9. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
- **Chairperson**

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. Farah Salah, MP
 2. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
 3. Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP
 4. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
 5. Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
 6. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
 7. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
 8. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
 9. Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
 10. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
 11. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
 12. Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP
- **Vice Chairperson**

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Secretariat

1. Mr. Jimale Mohamed - Clerk Assistant I
2. Mr. Bernard Toroitich - Clerk Assistant III
3. Mr. Dominic Mwendwa - Legal Counsel II
4. Ms. Mercy Mayende - Media Relations Officer III
5. Mr. James Muguna - Research Officer I
6. Mr. Danton Kimtai - Hansard officer
7. Mr. John Nduashi - Sergeant-at-arms

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/123

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. by welcoming the Members present and thereafter requested Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP, to read the Prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/124

The agenda was unanimously adopted as listed hereunder on the proposal of Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP, and seconded by Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP.

AGENDA

1. Prayer & Preliminaries;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes (16th - 18th sitting);
4. Matters Arising;
5. **Consideration and Adoption of the draft Report on the Businesses Transacted by the EALA at the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 5th Assembly from 23rd June - 4th July, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania;**
6. Any other Business; and,
7. Adjournment.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/125

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 17th sitting were confirmed as a true record of the previous meeting as proposed by Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP and seconded by Hon. Richard K. Yegon, MP. The Minutes of the 16th and 18th sitting were deferred to the next sitting.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/126

MATTERS ARISING

Under **MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/114**

The Chairperson informed Members of the following: -

- a) Members willing to attend the ongoing CHAN games were encouraged to assemble on Thursday, 7th August 2025 at 2:30 p.m., since a pool transport will be provided to ferry Members to the Stadium.
- b) Members were reminded of the upcoming meeting with the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary to the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs scheduled on **Thursday, 7th August 2025**, and were notified that the meeting will begin at 11.30 a.m. for an in-house meeting.
- c) Further, the Committee was informed that the study visit to the IGAD headquarters in Djibouti had been rescheduled to September 2025.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/127

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE BUSINESSES TRANSACTED BY THE EALA AT THE 4TH MEETING OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 5TH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE - 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA;

The Committee adopted the Report on the consideration of Businesses Transacted by the EALA at the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 5th Assembly from 23rd June - 4th July 2024, in Arusha, Tanzania, as having been proposed by Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP, and seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/128

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

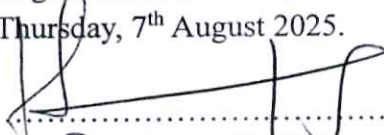
The Committee was informed of the following:

- 1) The Chairperson, Hon Irene Mayaka, MP, informed the Committee of the planned meeting with the current Chairperson of the EAC Summit, H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, CGH. Details to be communicated upon confirmation of the meeting, the secretariat was instructed to prepare issues to be addressed during the meeting.
- 2) Secretariat also requested to send supplementary questions to the office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs ahead of the upcoming meeting.
- 3) Members also noted to share with the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary to the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs challenges faced by Kenyan Missions abroad.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/129

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1300 hrs. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th August 2025.

Signed:  Date: 07-08-2025

Hon. (CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP – Chairperson



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

COMMENTS ON THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (5TH ASSEMBLY) BILLS,
REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

26TH AND 27TH APRIL 2024

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37



1 . THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET OF THE EAC FOR FY 2022 /2023; THE EAC SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2023 ; THE EAC SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, (NO.2) 2023; AND THE EAC APPROPRIATION BILL 2023.

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) 4th Assembly approved the 1st Supplementary budget of USD 2,620,800 for the FY 2022/2023. on 3rd November 2022.

On 4th April 2023 the Council tabled before the 5th Assembly a request for a 2nd supplementary budget of U SD 16 ,408 ,045 for the various organs and institutions of the Community for FY 2022/2023. The objective of the Bill was to appropriate a sum of U SD 16 ,408 ,045 out of the budget of the Community to meet additional expenditure for the EAC Organs and institutions for the FY ending 30th June 2023 as indicated below.

Vote	Organ/Institution	Amount (USD)
001	EAC Secretariat	5,505,351
002	East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	733,973
003	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	2,662,940
004	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	1,607,256
005	Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)	3,512,729
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	1,036,291
007	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTCO)	419,876
008	East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	252,037
009	East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	444,469
010	East African Competition Authority (EACA)	233,123
	Total	16,408,045

- On 3rd October 2023, the Assembly considered and approved the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2023 observing that the financial year in which the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2023 related to expired on 30th June 2023 hence it was not legally permissible to consider this Bill whose books of accounts were closed and audit was ongoing.
- The Committee on General Purpose approved USD 16,408,045 out of which the Assembly authorized expenditure of USD 11,904,329. The Council of Ministers may come up with a new Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the balance, USD 4,503,716, to be authorized for expenditure in the current financial year 2023/2024.
- On 6th April 2023 the Council adopted the 3rd supplementary budget of U SD 771,872 for various organs and institutions and tabled it before the 5th Assembly on 26th May 2023. The objective of the Bill was to appropriate a sum of U SD 771 ,872 out of the budget of the Community to meet additional expenditure for the EAC Organs and institutions for the FY ending 30th June 2023 as indicated in the table below.

VOTE	ORGAN /INSTITUTION	AMOUNT (USD)
001	EAC Secretariat	318,221
003	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	322,194
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	131,457
	TOTAL	771,872

Note: Sources of Funding for the Supplementary Budgets presented to the 5th Assembly totaling USD 17,179,917 are as shown below .

1. EAC General Reserve Fund	-	2,414,562
2. Partner States Contributions (DRC)	-	7,996,343
3. LVFO Reserve Fund	-	104,000
4. Uganda Special Contribution	-	61,080
5. Development Partners	-	6,603,932
TOTAL	-	17,179,917

- This EAC Appropriation Bill 2023 is a Bill for the EAC total Budget for the current financial year, i.e. FY 2023/2024.

- The objective of the Bill was to appropriate a sum of USD **103 ,842 ,880** out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the EAC Organs and institutions for the FY ending 30th June 2024 as indicated in the table below.

S/NO	ORGAN /INSTITUTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION (USD)
1.	EAC Secretariat	50,931,553
2.	East African Court of Justice	4,450,488
3.	East African Legislative Assembly	17,681,365
4.	Lake Victoria Basin Commission	8,471,980
5.	The Inter University Council for East Africa	12,394,945
6.	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	2,807,993
7.	East African Science and Technology Commission	2,016,543
8.	East African Kiswahili Commission	1,502,535
9.	East African Health Research Commission	2,193,811
10.	East African Competition Authority	1,391,667
	TOTAL	103,842,880

2 . REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAC
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.1) AND (NO. 2) BILLS

In accordance with provisions of Article 49(2)(b) and 132 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC, Section 4 and 7 of the EAC Budget Act, 2009 and Rule 78(1)(b) and Annex 5(f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the report on two supplementary budget requests for the FY 2022/2023 was presented for consideration and adoption.

General Purpose Committee Observations on the two Supplementary Budgets 1.

Supplementary Budget vs Approved Budget

- a) The sum total of the three (3) supplementary budgets requested by Council in the FY 2022/2023 was USD 19,800,717. This translates to 22% of the approved budget of the EAC for the current FY i.e. USD 91,579,215. This exceeds 5% of total approved budget as provided for in the EAC Budget Act 2009.
- b) Section 7(1) of the EAC Budget Act 2009 provides that "The total supplementary expenditure that requires resources over and above what is appropriated by the Assembly shall not exceed 5% of the total approved budget for that FY without prior approval by the Assembly.
- c) The Committee found this to be a violation of prudent budgeting principles of the Community.
- d) A memo from the Chair GPC to the Secretary General (SG) requesting for the schedule of programmes/activities of the Community on which funds were requested for under the supplementary budgets, when and where these activities were undertaken with evidence, received no response. Reiteration of the same in subsequent meetings with Director Finance and SG bore no fruit.
- e) This failure by the SG and the Director Finance to furnish the Assembly with the above information was construed to mean that the activities under the two supplementary budgets were yet to be implemented hence the funds that were to be drawn from the EAC General Reserve for this purpose were presumed to be intact.

2 . The EAC General Reserve Fund

- a. The Committee observed that the EAC Secretariat has been and was still the biggest beneficiary of funding from the General Reserve Fund.
- b. In the two supplementary budgets, the Council earmarked a total of USD 2,414,562 to be drawn from the EAC General Reserve Fund. Out of this amount, USD 1,433,843 (59.4%) was allocated to the EAC Secretariat. The Committee considered this unfair to other EAC Organs and institutions.
- c. The Chair GPC wrote a memo to SG on 23rd May 2023 requesting for the status of the EAC General Reserve Fund with evidence. This request was reiterated in subsequent meetings with the Director Finance and SG and Council Chair to no avail. This non - response was construed to be a violation of the EAC Budget Act.
- d. The Committee thus recommended to the House to resolve that the Assembly shall not consider any subsequent budgets of the EAC until the Council of Ministers submits (with evidence) to the Assembly the status of the EAC General Reserve Fund.

3 . Underfunded/Unfunded Priorities

During consideration of the EAC Budget for FY 2022/2023, the Assembly together with Council resolved that underfunded/unfunded programmes/activities be given priority in the supplementary budget of 2022/2023. However, Council did not consider and prioritise them in the two supplementary budgets requested.

4 . Translation Equipment

- a) In the 2nd supplementary budget, Council earmarked USD 2,969,497 for procurement and installation of translation equipment in various organs and institutions.
- b) According to the SG this action was meant to operationalise Summit directive on formalizing the French language as one of the official languages of the Community. The Committee however noted that this formalization can only be regularized through amendment of the Treaty.
- c) The Committee was unable to access some of the basic documents such as quotations, and invoices from potential suppliers that the organs and institutions could have relied on to make the estimates. No rationale was found either for each organ/institution of the EAC to procure and install separate sets of

translation equipment at such a high cost at a time when the EAC was grappling with scarce resources and poor remittance from Partner States.

- d) Hence the Committee recommended to the Assembly to stay approval of all the funds earmarked for procurement and installation of translation equipment; and
- e) That the Council expeditiously initiates the process of amendment of the Treaty for the use of Kiswahili and French as additional official languages of the Community.

5 . Contribution from the DRC

- a) The DRC was expected to commence honouring her financial obligations to the Community for the FY 2022/2023 with effect from July 2022 when she became a member of EAC.
- b) According to the 2nd supplementary budget request, DRC would make a contribution of USD 7,996,345 for the FY 2022/2023. However, this has not happened. 85% of this amount was earmarked to fund programmes/activities aimed at integrating DRC to the Community 90% of which were about sensitization. However, there was no comprehensive roadmap for the integration of DRC into the EAC. But since implementation of some programmes/activities under this source of funding had commenced and some commitments already made to a tune of USD 2,478,736, the Committee recommended to the Assembly to approve the above funds from DRC contribution, and the balance from DRC to be taken to the General Reserve Fund.
- c) In addition, the Committee recommended to the Assembly to urge the Council to expeditiously prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the integration of the DRC into the Community.

6 . Inaugural Outreach of the Community by the 5th Assembly/Tour of the Community

a) Whereas the Assembly made a request of USD 798,500 to undertake this activity,

no budgetary provision was availed to the activity in the supplementary budget.

- b) Hence the Committee recommended that the Assembly approves a rationalization/reallocation of a total of USD 798,500 from the programmes and activities in the rationalization/reallocation schedule of funds (Annex 5) under the 2nd supplementary budget for FY 2022/2023 to enable the Assembly undertake

the inaugural outreach of the Community in FY 222/2023.

7. Refusal to make Adjustments in Approved Budget

- a) The Committee received complaints from Heads of Organs/Institutions and other officers of the Community that for the last 3 years the Assembly has approved budget with rationalization/reallocation, the responsible officers from the EAC Secretariat have not been effecting the necessary adjustments in the final budget documents and in the EAC Budget Management System.
- b) The Committee viewed this as an act of indiscipline which undermines the mandate of the Assembly and was contrary to the EAC Principles of good governance and accountability.
- c) Hence the Committee recommended that the Assembly directs:
 - (i) The clerk of the Assembly to transmit copies of the report on the two supplementary budgets to all Heads of Organs and Institutions upon approval by the House; and
 - (ii) The SG to adhere to the rationalizations/reallocations in the supplementary budgets as approved by the Assembly and make immediate adjustments in the EAC Budget Management System when the Assembly approves the budget with amendments.

Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the Assembly:

- a) Approves the rationalization/reallocation of USD 962,540 from within Organs and Institutions to the EALA to implement urgent programs/activities (Annex 5 – Schedule of Rationalization/Reallocation);
- b) Approves USD 11,904,329 under the 2nd supplementary Budget request to facilitate the implementation of various programs and activities of the Community for FY 2022/2023. Whereas the Supplementary Appropriation Bill had provided for USD 16,408,045, the Assembly will amend the Bill to provide for a total of only USD 11,904,329;
- c) Approves a total of USD 771,872 under the 3rd supplementary budget request;
- d) Directs the Clerk of the Assembly to transmit to the SG within 24hrs of approval of the two supplementary budgets, a schedule of rationalization/reallocation for appropriate adjustment in the EAC Budget Management System;

- e) Directs the SG to make appropriate adjustments in the EAC Budget Management System to accommodate rationalization/reallocation as approved by the House not later than 19th June 2023; and submit and lay before the House the final signed copies of the supplementary budgets at the next sitting of the Assembly;
- f) Directs the SG to send a demand note to the DRC for a total sum of USD 7,996,343 being her contribution to the EAC for the FY 2022/2023;
- g) Adopts the Report of the GPC and approves the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bills (No. 1 & 2) 2023 with the above amendments.

Assembly adopted the GPC Report and approved the supplementary appropriation Bills 1 and 2 of 2023 with amendments.

3 . REPO RT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ON THE EAC BUDGET ESTIM ATES
FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR FY 2023/2024

- a) Budget estimates for FY 2023/2024 is U SD 103 ,842 ,880 compared to U SD 91,579,215 approved for the EAC Organs and Institutions for the FY 2022/2023.
- b) 55.6% of the total budget i.e. USD 59,836,389 would be contributed equally by Partner States while USD 44,809,870 would be sourced from Development Partners; EAC General Reserve Fund USD 208,650; Member Universities of IUCEA USD 495,945; interests and proceeds from Disposals USD 384,366; and Road Agencies from Partner States USD 107,660.
- c) Below is the table on the proposed budget allocation.

Proposed Budget Allocation and Planned Activities for FY 2023/2024

S/NO	ORGAN/INSTITUTION	BUDGET ALLOCATION (USD)
1.	EAC Secretariat	50,931,553
2.	East African Court of Justice	4,450,488
3.	East African Legislative Assembly	17,681,365
4.	Lake Victoria Basin Commission	8,471,980
5.	The Inter University Council for East Africa	12,394,945
6.	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	2,807,993
7.	East African Science and Technology Commission	2,016,543
8.	East African Kiswahili Commission	1,502,535
9.	East African Health Research Commission	2,193,811
10.	East African Competition Authority	1,391,667
	TOTAL	103,842,880

A review of the planned programmes and activities under the EAC Secretariat and other institutions revealed that there was a lot of travel; duplication of activities; rent, printing

and protocol expenses. The Assembly thus approved reallocation of funds for programmes/activities.

The Committee Noted that:

- a) There was moderate budget absorption rate by organs and institutions on activities funded by Partner States in the FY 2022/2023 mainly due to delayed remittances;
- b) Despite the progress that had been made in the implementation of the EAC projects and programmes a number of challenges still persist i.e. delays in disbursement of Partner States contributions to the EAC resulting in delayed implementation of regional commitments; delay in concluding the development of a sustainable financing mechanism for the Community; and, lack of an effective mechanism for enforcing the Community's decisions and directives.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

S/NO	OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
1.	At the 21 st Ordinary Summit held on 21 st February 2021, Heads of State adopted Kiswahili and French as additional official languages of the EAC and directed the Council to expedite the implementation modalities of the directive. With the admission of DRC and her participation in EAC activities/programmes, the two official languages will be used alongside the English language.	Council to expedite amendment of the Treaty and approval of the relevant policies to give effect to the use of Kiswahili and French as additional official languages of the Community.	Council of Ministers
2.	There was notable persistent dependence on donor-funding	Council of Ministers to expedite the finalization of a sustainable	Council of

S/NO	OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
	which undermines the sustainability of the EAC integration.	financing mechanism for the Community.	Ministers
3.	Partner States that have failed to meet their financial obligations to the Community have never been sanctioned as per relevant Treaty provisions. Partner States' contributions to the EAC are persistently declining.	Council of Ministers to expedite the finalization of a schedule of sanctions against Partner States that fail to honor their obligations to the Community.	Council of Ministers
4.	The EASTECO has a governing Board of 49 members with 7 representatives from each Partner State as provided for by the Protocol. This is a big liability to the Community and presents a challenge during decision making. A raft of amendments to the Protocol has been proposed but with no clear timeframe within which these amendments will be finalized and effected.	Council of Ministers to expedite amendment of the Protocol for the establishment of EASTECO by June 2024 to provide for, among others, a lean Board.	Council of Ministers
5.	It was observed that most programmes and activities under Peace and Security Department were donor funded. At the same time, Productive and Social Sectors were found to be perpetually under-funded.	Council of Ministers to ensure adequate allocation of funds from Partner States contributions to these sectors.	Council of Ministers
6.	It was noted that there was considerable reduction in the	Council of Ministers to provide additional funding to the Office of	Council of

S/NO	OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
	funds allocated to the Office of the Speaker of the Assembly in the discharge of his duties.	the Speaker in a Supplementary Budget in the FY 2023/2024 to enhance the functionality, the visibility and effectiveness of the Assembly.	Ministers
7.	It was noted that there had been a reduction in the number of Plenary Sessions, and the Budget Estimates had thus provided for four plenary sessions of 14 days each, making it a total of 56 days, contrary to Rule 10(6) of the Rules of Procedure which provides that the Assembly shall have not less than 80 sittings in a given Financial Year.	Council to provide an additional USD 1,642,300 in a supplementary budget for FY 2023/2024 to enable the Assembly hold 80 Plenary sittings as per the provisions of Rule 10(6) of the Procedure of the Assembly.	Council of Ministers
8.	The budget allocated to Annual EAC/EALA Inter-parliamentary Games was for 9 days instead of 12 days as resolved in the Speakers Bureau. Article 49(2) and 65 of the Treaty enjoins the Assembly to establish functional relations with national Parliaments of EAC Partner States.	Council of Ministers to provide a sum of USD 216,000 through a supplementary budget in FY 2023/2024 for three additional days for the Inter-Parliamentary Games.	Council of Ministers
9.	Article 49(2)a of the Treaty enjoins the Assembly to among others, liaise with National Assemblies, Partner States and other stakeholders on matters of integration. In line with this Treaty	Council of Ministers to provide a sum of USD 630,000 in a supplementary budget for the FY 2023/2024 to enable the Assembly carry out sensitization in Partner States.	Council of Ministers

S/NO	OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	ACTOR
	provision EALA has always undertaken two major public outreach and sensitization activities every financial year. However, the activity was omitted from the budget for FY 2023/2024, constituting a funding gap of USD 630,000.		
10.	In line with Articles 49(2)(a) and 65 of the Treaty, the Assembly has devised the Annual Nanyuki Series to give them an opportunity to interact with national Parliaments to deepen the EAC integration agenda. Hence need for a budget of USD 291,000 to undertake this four-day activity.	Council of Ministers to provide a sum of USD 291,000 in a supplementary budget for the FY 2023/2024 to enable the Assembly convene the Annual EAC/EALA Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki Series).	Council of Ministers
11.	Aides to Members of EALA with disabilities: It was noted that Council had not accorded same treatment to some members of the 4 th and 5 th Assembly.	The Council to: -Approve the retrospective appointment of Aides for the late Hon. Mathias Kasamba, Hon. Alex Bahati and Hon. Ole David Sankok; -Approve the outstanding arrears of emoluments of these Aides and an extra budgetary requirement of emoluments for the Aides of the two members in a supplementary budget for FY 2023/2024.	Council of Ministers

NOTE:

- a) The Assembly made reallocation and readjustments in the budget submitted to it by the Council of Ministers and approved the budget with amendments, a move that was objected to by the DRC and United Republic of Tanzania hence the budget Bills shared by EALA could not be assented to by Partner States. The Republic of Rwanda also alleged duplication in the budget which needed to be cleaned.
- b) In accordance to Article 63 of EAC Treaty and Rule 73 of EALA Rules of Procedure, the Chair Council tabled the following before the Assembly for reconsideration;
 - i. The EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2023;
 - ii. The EAC Appropriation Bill, 2023;
 - iii. The letter from the DRC with budget concerns;
 - iv. Two letters from URT with concerns for consideration by the Assembly; and
 - v. The request from Council of Ministers for the Assembly to finalize approval of EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.1 and EAC Appropriation Bill, 2023 and resubmit the same to the Partner States for assent.
- c) Subsequently the Assembly referred the Bills to the General Purpose Committee (GPC) for reconsideration. The GPC held a meeting with the Council of Minister to reconsider the EAC Appropriation Bill, 2023 and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2023, and communication from DRC and Tanzania objecting to variations in ceilings of the budget of the Organs and institutions of the Community.
 - The Bills were reconsidered and eventually reverted to the earlier budget submission by Council to EALA. This was done in the spirit of Article 49(2) (b) of the Treaty which provides that the Assembly "**shall debate and approve the budget of the Community**" while Article 14 (3) (e) provides that the Council "**shall consider the budget of the Community**". The Assembly is therefore not expected to make reallocations and adjustments to the proposed budget.
 - The 51st Extra ordinary Council of Ministers held their sitting on 13th September 2023 and considered the budget matters. The Council proposed a one-off approval of two-day sitting for the Committee on General Purpose to facilitate additional two days for EALA to reconsider and adopt the budget as approved by the Council to facilitate implementation of programmes in the current Financial Year.
 - EALA is yet to re-submit the approved budget Bills to Partner States for Assent.

4 . REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL, RULES AND PRIVILEGES ON THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOLS AND LAWS GOVERNING EAC INSTITUTIONS

The Committee conducted interactive meetings with the Heads of eight EAC Institutions, for purposes of assessing the implementation of the Treaty, Protocols, Conventions, Agreements, Laws and Regulations, governing the operations of the EAC institutions. The Committee met the following eight institutions:

- a) The East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)
- b) The Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority (CASSOA)
- c) East African Competition Authority (EACA)
- d) Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)
- e) East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)
- f) East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)
- g) Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- h) Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)

The Committee did not meet the East African Development Bank (EADB).

During the above meeting, the Heads of the EAC Institutions were required to provide the following information:

- i. Establishment of the institution
- ii. The Legal instruments governing the institution
- iii. Key Stake holders and how they work with them
- iv. How the protocols and laws governing the institution are implemented by the stakeholders
- v. Challenges facing the institution in the implementation of the Protocols and laws
- vi. Areas that require review or amendment in the existing legal instruments and action taken by the institution
- vii. Matters relating to the Status, privileges and immunities of the institution and staff working with the institution

REMARK : To take note that inadequate funding to implement activities together with staffing needs are cross-cutting challenges affecting all the Institutions. Further, to specifically note the

following interventions/challenges expressed by the Institutions

- a) The East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC). Fast-tracking of amendment of the Treaty to provide for Kiswahili as one of the Official languages of the EAC. This is already being undertaken where the necessary Treaty amendments are before the Sectoral Council for Legal and Judicial Affairs, for consideration.
- b) The Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority (CASSOA). The Protocol on Privileges and Immunities is yet to be implemented although it is fully ratified. The High taxes charged by the EAC Partner States have been identified as one of the major causes of high cost.
- c) East African Competition Authority (EACA). The need to sensitize leaders and the general public about the activities and the importance of having Competition regulatory authority within their Partner States,
- d) Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA). Delay in the amendment of the Law and protocol governing the IUCEA.
- e) East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO). The delay in amendment of the Protocol governing EASTECO, which is affecting the functioning of the Commission.
- f) East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), Delay in amendment of the EAHRC Protocol to address the size (from the current 45 to a reasonable number) and membership of Governing Board and to separate the functions of the Commission from the functions of the Governing Board
- g) Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). The need to amend the Headquarters Agreement for purposes of according Kenyan nationals working with LVBC similar privileges and immunities with other Partner State nationals working in institutions hosted by their respective State. Slow implementation of the East African Lake Victoria Act as Partner States are using national laws instead of the Regional Law.
- h) Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO). Delay in amending the legal instruments to extend the mandate, and scope of the LVFO to be an East African Fisheries Organization. Partner States are requested to regulate trade in fish in order to protect the fish resource in the region.

5 . REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION , TRADE AND INVESTMENTS ON
THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY O N CIVIL AVIATION , SAFETY AN D SECURITY
OVERSIGHT AGENCY

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations:

- a) **D elayed funding:** The committee noted that the delayed remittance of funds to the Agency has continued to affect the implementation of the key planned activities and reduced activities on oversight and safety. Non-remittance is a breach of Regulation 25(4) of CASSOA Financial Rules and Regulations 2013, which enjoins Partner States to make their financial obligations by remitting the first installment within the first three months of the financial and the second by January of the same financial year. The Committee recommended that the Assembly should urge the Council of Ministers to ensure that the Partner States meet their financial obligations to CASSOA to enable the Agency implement its planned activities.

- b) **Failure to harm onize air transport policies:** The committee noted that at the time of undertaking the oversight activity, the Partner States had not yet harmonized the air transport policies. The processes of harmonizing have been characterized by various national interests, which still pose a challenge to the realization of this policy. The Committee recommended that the Assembly should urge the Council of Ministers to expedite the harmonization of air transport policies as per their commitment under the Treaty.

- c) **Delayed Enactment of the Civil Aviation Act:** The development of the State safety oversight system entirely depends on the enactment of the Civil Aviation Act and the subsequent promulgation of the Civil Aviation Regulations. However, the Committee noted that the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Burundi were yet to enact this critical piece of legislation. The committee recommended that the Assembly should urge the Council of Ministers to urge the Republic of South Sudan and Burundi to expedite the enactment of the Civil Aviation Act to enable the establishment of a strong state safety oversight system.

- d) **Cost of Air fares:** The cost of air travel within the region is still very high and less affordable. The high taxes, charges and fees that affect ticket cost are high in the EAC region and such taxes, charges and fees include import duty, railway development levies, passenger services, value added tax, landing, parking and navigation charges. There is need to explore strategies to make airfares affordable. The committee recommended that the Assembly should urge the Council of Ministers to urge the Partner State to finalize national consultations on having a harmonized air tax/fee regime.
- e) **Center for Aviation Medicine (C AM):** It was noted that the construction of the Centre for Aviation Medicine in Nairobi was completed and will be handed over to the CASSOA as soon as the Host Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the East African Community is concluded. The negotiation of the Agreement was concluded in November 2022 and the draft agreement is now with the responsible Ministry in Kenya for finalization and submission to the Cabinet for approval prior to signing at a date to be determined. The committee recommends that the Assembly should urge the Council of Ministers to urge the Republic of Kenya to expedite the approval of the host Agreement to enable full operationalisation of the Centre for Aviation Medicine.
- f) The Host Agreement of the Centre for Aviation Medicine was concluded and signed between the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the EAC on 6th April, 2023. The Centre is now operational and the Government of Kenya has provided all the necessary facilitation to operationalise the Centre.

6 . REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL, RULES AND PRIVILEGES ON
CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND RULE 80 (6) OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE OF THE EALA

ISSUE: EALA Commission referred to the Committee the decision to amend Rule 80 (6) of the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly. Rule 80 (6) provides that "The membership of each Committee shall be fifteen and the quorum shall be at least half of the Members"

The current practice/tradition of the Assembly is that each Standing Committee is constituted by three members from each Partner State. However, with the expansion of the membership of the EAC, from five in 2015 when the Rules were adopted to the current eight in 2024, there is need for an amendment of the above Rule to cater for the consequential increase of membership of the Assembly.

SOLUTION : To address the above challenge the Committee proposed increasing the number provided under Rule 80 (6) from fifteen to twenty one. To effect the aforesaid, the Committee recommended to the Assembly that the Rule be amended to state "The Membership of each Committee shall be twenty one or such other number as may be determined by the Assembly and the quorum shall be at least half the members of the Committee"

REMARK: *Take note that:*

- a) the above is an administrative intervention to ensure all Partner States are represented in each Standing Committee and that as the EAC membership continues to expand, subsequent amendment of the Rule will now not be required as the Rule will have anticipated and addressed such expansion.
- b) The financial implication of increasing the membership. This will require an increase in the budget for seating allowances of Committee members.

7 . R E P O R T O F T H E C O M M I T T E E O N A C C O U N T S O N T H E O V E R S I G H T A C T I V I T Y T O
A S S E S S T H E P R O G R A M M E S A N D P E R F O R M A N C E S O F T H E E A S T A F R I C A
H E A L T H R E S E A R C H C O M M I S S I O N

The East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) was established by the 5th Extra Ordinary Summit of the East African Heads of State on 18th June 2007 as an institution of the EAC. It is located in the Republic of Burundi. The overall objective of the EAHRC is to promote, facilitate, and coordinate the conduct and application of health and for the well being of the people of East Africa.

- a) **B u d g e t.** The EAHRC has challenges of funding and this has impacted negatively on the execution of its programmes and Projects. It depends mainly on funding from development partners. For optimal performance of EAHRC in the implementation of its activities, it is imperative for the Council of Ministers to set adequate budget for funding of the EAHRC programmes and Projects.
- b) **E a s t A f r i c a H e a l t h S c i e n t i f i c C o n f e r e n c e.** So far eight (8) East Africa Health Scientific Conferences have been held successfully and biennially (after two years) on rotational basis. The 8th EAHSC was held in the Republic of Kenya in November, 2021. The 9th EAHRC was held in the Republic of Rwanda from 27th to 29th September, 2023.
- c) **U n d e r s t a f f i n g.** East Africa Health Research Commission is grossly understaffed, this should be a priority for Council of Ministers to address to enable the Commission to deliver on its mandate. There is need to urgently recruit Executive Secretary.
- d) **S t r a t e g i c P l a n 2 0 2 1 - 2 0 2 6.** The Strategic Plan 2021-2026 has been developed and validated. It will be presented to the 24th Sectoral Council on Health for consideration and adoption. However, it should be noted that the Commission has continued to get approvals to enable it meet its obligations.
- e) **C o n s t r u c t i o n o f t h e E a s t A f r i c a H e a l t h R e s e a r c h C o m m i s s i o n H e a d q u a r t e r s.** Evaluation of technical proposals and opening of financial proposals have been done to allow the Research Commission to procure consultancy services for designs and construction supervision of the proposed permanent East Africa Health Research Commission Headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi. Evaluation was done, contractor procured, now at the finalization of the contract.

- f) **The East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill, 2021.** This bill should be reinstated as business of the 5th Assembly and finalized.
- g) **Mandate of the EAHRC vis a vis that of the EAC health department.** The EAC Health Department is an arm of the EAC Secretariat charged with the EAC coordination of the following regional health projects and programmes.
- i. generation of regional health policies,
 - ii. coordinating regional programmes and initiatives in health in collaboration with the EACHRC which is focusing more on research development and health evidence generation

As such, the EAC Health Department is coordinating the work of the following 6 regional TWGs:

- Technical Working group*
1. TWG on Health Systems and Policies (Brings together the directors of planning, head of national health professional boards, directors of the EAC Regional Centres of Excellence on Health)...
 2. Regulation of Health Professions
 3. TWG on Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases (Brings together the heads of surveillance and disease control, Malaria Programme Managers, experts of human and animal and environment health and the National Non-Communicable disease Programmes)
 4. TWG on HIV-AIDS (Brings together heads of HIV-AIDS programs and National AIDS control councils)
 5. TWG on Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (Brings together the heads of Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition programmes)
 6. TWG on Medicines and Food Safety (Have established and Coordinate the Medicines and Food Safety Authorities)

The EAC Health Research Commission is coordinating mainly the institutions of research from the EAC Partner States. It brings together the Health Research Commissioners from the Partner States especially from the National Institutes of Public Health. The health research publications in the region are normally collected and reviewed by a regional team of reviewers under the coordination of the EAHRC and published in the EA Health Scientific Conference and then uploaded/published in the EA

Health Research Journal. As such there is no overlap between the 2 entities. There are only complementarities.

The EAC Health Department has developed a draft protocol which shall give more clarity in terms of mandate of the Health Department and the Health Research Commission which is a semi-autonomous institutions dealing with health research.

The 19th Sectoral Council of ministers of health directed the EAC Secretary General to convene a meeting of the senior health experts from the Partner States to re-align the roles, functions and mandate of the East African Health Research Commission and the EAC Health Department and submit a report for consideration by the 20th Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health.

Further, the 23rd Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health directed: the EAC Secretariat to constitute a team of Experts from Partner States to undertake an assessment with the aim to redesign the EAHRC, considering the mandate, scope of work, objectives, structure and challenges and review the status of implementation of previously approved works and present the report to the Extraordinary Meeting of Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Health by September 2023/

8 . R E P O R T O F T H E C O M M I T T E E O N R E G I O N A L A F F A I R S A N D C O N F L I C T
R E S O L U T I O N O N T H E O V E R S I G H T A C T I V I T Y T O A S S E S S T H E P R O G R E S S M A D E I N
T H E D E V E L O P M E N T O F T H E E A C R E F U G E E M A N A G E M E N T P O L I C Y

- The Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (RACR) undertook an oversight activity in Nairobi from 14th - 17th March 2023 to assess progress made in development of the draft EAC Refugee Management Policy.
- The Committee sought to understand the draft EAC Refugee Management Policy, consultation process, Key findings, and challenges faced in development of the policy as well as the roadmap to the draft policy.
- The mandate to develop a common mechanism for the management of refugees was derived from Article 124 of the EAC Treaty and Article 10 of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security.
- The process of development of the policy started with a directive of the EAC Chiefs of Refugee Management entities to its technical working group to work with EAC Secretariat towards developing a common policy on refugee management.
- The EAC Secretariat, with support from UNHCR, procured services of two consultants in 2019 to develop the policy.
- UNHCR statistics showed that out of the 4.9 million refugees in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, 2.8 million are East Africans and 1.9 million are internally displaced persons.
- In June 2022 the Chiefs of Refugee Management entities approved the draft Policy and recommended for its consideration by the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security and subsequent adoption by Council of Ministers.
- EAC Refugee Management Policy focused on the following key areas namely:
 - a. Access to territory and asylum procedures by asylum seekers.
 - b. Fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures.
 - c. Enhancing border management systems, security and procedures.
 - d. Reception, registration, documentation and national databases.
 - e. Inclusion of refugees in the national and regional development plans.

- f. Coordination platforms with UNHCR and other development partners for refugee management, early warning and contingency planning.
 - g. Protection of rights to refugees such as freedom of movement, rights to access education, employment, health, etc.
 - h. Durable solutions for refugees, i.e. integration of refugee management in the plans of host communities.
 - i. Environmental management and protection.
 - j. The role of host communities, local authorities, national NGOs in refugee management.
 - k. Integration of refugee management in the national development plans and budgets of the host countries.
 - l. Integrate the host community needs in the refugee response framework.
 - m. Maintaining the civilian character of asylum.
 - n. Maintaining the humanitarian character of asylum.
 - o. Capacity building of national NGOs and integration of local context in the management of refugees.
 - p. Joint capacity development/strengthening of government institutions and other development partners.
 - q. Regional resource mobilization strategies.
- **The Committee Observed that:**
 - i. The process of drafting the policy was more consultative and therefore similar consultations need to be carried out in DRC and Republic of Somalia who are the latest entrants into the Community for their views to be included in the policy;
 - ii. There was a delay in developing this policy yet new trends are emerging and may not have been included in the analysis;
 - iii. There were shortcomings in the national laws to inform a regional refugee management policy in terms of harmonization of the policies.
- The Committee identified a number of challenges in developing the policy, including:

- a. Individual Partner States straining in terms of resources associated with hosting refugees
- b. Partner States policies and legislation on refugees do not comprehensively cover some key aspects of refugee management in the region
- c. Lack of uniformity in implementation of international of international instruments on refugees across the region
- d. Climate change and its impact on refugees and host communities.

Status of Development of the Policy

- i. The draft Policy was tabled before the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security in November 2023 in Nairobi.
- ii. The draft Policy is at the stage of national consultations in new Partner States of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Federal Republic of Somalia.
- iii. In Kenya refugee affairs are governed by the Refugee Act of 2021. The country is in the process of integrating refugees into the society and also developing new regulations to operationalise the new Act. Kenya, as a Partner State in EAC has affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).
- iv. The Policy is necessary to facilitate harmonization of national refugee policies, strategies and programs.
- v. The Policy would be one of the ways to actualize provisions of Article 124 of the Treaty establishing the EAC, Article 7 of the EAC Common Market Protocol and Article 10 of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security.

9 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE PARTNER STATES TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND TO EQUIP THEM TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE AfCFTA

- a) The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063, which is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent in the next 45 years. The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of a continental customs union.
- b) The implementation of the AfCFTA agreement is guided by the protocols, among them, the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. The Protocol has undergone extensive discussions and was adopted by the Council of Ministers during their 12th meeting held in December 2023 in Dar es Salaam. The protocol was adopted by AU Assembly in February 2024.

The Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade provides the following opportunities.

- a) **Capacity building and technical assistance:** The Protocol through targeted programmes designed to improve the knowledge of women on intellectual property rights, standards, and other non-tariff measures but also to improve their capacity to comply. This is also done while taking into consideration the capacity needs of women in the rural areas so as to ensure they benefit from AfCFTA. This will improve their competitiveness in the market.
- b) **Access to Finance:** the protocol requires that state parties implement measures that facilitate access to affordable financial instruments, services and guarantees adapted to trading activities by Women and Youth in Trade to enable them import and export as well as protect them from trade related risks. This initiative enhances access to financial services and support, giving room for Women and Youth to start and grow their businesses. As a result, more new jobs and economic opportunities will be created.
- c) **Harmonisation of National, Regional and Continental Programmes that support Women and Youth in Trade.** This can lead to more inclusive policies and practices that

address the specific needs, empowering them to participate in decision-making processes.

- d) **Development of Productive and Export Capacity:** The State parties are required to develop and strengthen special Programmes for Women and Youth in Trade to enhance their productive capacity and foster their integration into regional and continental value chains as well as promote their participation in national, regional continental trade fairs, business fora, conferences, and any other platforms. This will enhance use of advanced technologies in production of quality goods, hence increasing the visibility of their products and services, thus increasing their income.
- e) **Participation in Formal Trade Activities by Women and Youth in Trade:** state parties to take measures that promote the participation of Women and Youth in Trade in formal cross border trade and enforce trade facilitation instruments and other related international instruments to support Women and Youth in small scale cross border trade. This creates networking amongst traders from different countries, the AfCFTA encourages networking and collaboration, strengthening partnerships, mentorships, and sharing of knowledge.
- f) **Women and Youth-owned or led Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises:** the protocol requires that state parties take appropriate measures to facilitate and support business associations and business clusters in order to facilitate their participation in trade within the framework of the AfCFTA. Women and youth being the main participants in MSMEs which is the engine of Africa countries' economies, the removal of trade barriers within the continental borders offers the access to a larger market.
- g) **Protection against Harassment and Related Practices:** the state parties to implement and monitor mechanisms to prevent, discourage, address, and eliminate all forms of harassment and related practices that compromise the security and safety of Women and Youth in Trade.
- h) **Access to trade information:** The AfCFTA Agreement, its Protocols and Annexes tailored to the targeted group of women in trade and made to be available in an understandable language. Further, ensure the enquiry points are responsive to the trade related information needs of women and youth.

10 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO REINSTATE THE PENDING BILLS OF THE
4TH ASSEMBLY INTO THE 5TH ASSEMBLY

The 4th Assembly had considered a number of Bills but was unable to enact the same at the time of its dissolution on 17th December 2022. It is noteworthy that, unless such pending Bills are re-instated by the successor Assembly (5th), they are deemed to have lapsed with the 4th Assembly.

Solution: The EALA Commission received a report of the pending Bills and resolved that the Bills be re-instated in the 5th Assembly and that their status as at the expiry of the term of the 4th Assembly be preserved.

The Assembly reinstated the ten Pending Bills as recommended by the EALA Commission but resolved that each of the Bills be **treated as a fresh reference**. The import of this resolution is that all the re-instated Bills would be considered a fresh by the 5th Assembly.

Remark: Take note that the following pending Bills were reinstated and are being considered afresh by the 5th Assembly:

- a) The East African Community Livestock Bill, 2021
- b) The East African Community Whistle Blowers Bill, 2016
- c) The East African Community Retirement Benefits for Specified Heads of Organs Bill, 2016
- d) The East African Community Trade Negotiations (Repeal) Bill, 2014
- e) The East African Youth Council Bill, 2017
- f) The East African Community Cross Border Trade in Professional Services Bill, 2017
- g) The East African Community Pharmaceuticals Bill, 2019
- h) The Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2021
- i) The East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill, 2021
- j) The East African Community Cultural Heritage, Bill 2022

11 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING TO THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS AND PARTNER STATES TO USE LOCAL CURRENCIES IN ALL
TRANSACTIONS IN THE EAC REGION TO BOOST TRADE

- a) The Assembly, among others, debated on a Resolution of the Assembly recommending to the Council of Ministers and Partner States to use Local Currencies in all transactions in the East African Community region to boost trade. This was moved under Article 49(2) (d) and 59(1) of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
- b) Article 49 of the Treaty provides for the functions of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). Among others, it provides that the Assembly "shall discuss all matters pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty." Article 49(2) (d).
- c) Article 59 of the Treaty is on Bills and Motions in the Assembly. It provides under Section 59(1) that, "subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, any member may propose any motion or introduce any Bill in the Assembly provided that a motion which does not relate to the functions of the Community shall not be proposed in the Assembly, and a Bill which does not relate to a matter with respect to which Acts of the Community may be enacted shall not be introduced into the Assembly."

Use Local Currencies in all transactions in the EAC

Cross border trade in the East Africa Community has continued to be facilitated by various payment channels, including the traditional correspondent banking, the emerging Peer-to-Peer (P2P) remittances through both mobile money and money transfer services and through the East African Payment System (EAPS). The EAPS is a cross border payment and settlement system which is implemented by interlinking the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Systems of the East African Community Partner States Central Banks in 2013, with the objective of facilitating cross-border funds transfer to enhance cross-border trade in the region. The RTGS allows for the instantaneous transfer of money and/or securities. Once completed, real-time gross settlement payments are final and irrevocable.

East African Payment System (EAPS)

- a) The EAC EAPS system uses the local currencies of the participating EAC Partner States. Currently, the Kenya Shilling, Rwandan Franc, Tanzanian Shilling and Uganda Shilling are the active currencies used in the system. The currencies of the other remaining EAC Partner States (Burundi, DRC, Somalia, and South Sudan) will be included as settlement currencies for EAPS as soon as the respective Partner States join EAPS.

Value of transactions and Choice of Settlement Currency

- b) However, it should be noted that real-time gross settlement is generally employed for large-value interbank funds transfers. A significant volume of cross trade in the EAC may involve low value transactions to be channeled through the RTGS. In addition, trade in the Community is pursued under free trade guided by the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994"). This suggests that businesses in the region may prefer to settle their transactions in hard currencies such the US Dollar that have the added advantage of minimal fluctuation in value and therefore less volatile and more stability than the local currencies.

12 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT THE EAST AFRICAN PAMOJA BID TO HOST THE 2027 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS IN EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY REGION

The co-hosting of world major sporting events is not without precedent as it can be recalled that the 2002 FIFA World Cup was held in Korea and Japan. Therefore, the PAMOJA bid by the 3 EAC founding Partner States of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania is laudable. The 3 Partner States will not only provide the required playing grounds, but with a combined population of about 150 million, will assure the African continent of a fan base necessary for the excitement of the football bonanza. The accruing economic benefits cannot be gainsaid, which include sports tourism, hospitality industry, leisure travels among others. The 3 Partner States were given the right to bid pending verification/ inspection by CAF after which they will be given the right to host. Each of the 3 Partner States is expected to identify 2 stadia and 9 training venues.

13 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE PARTNER STATES TO FAST TRACK THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014 MALABO DECLARATION ON ACCELERATED AGRICULTURE GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION FOR SHARED PROSPERITY AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

The Malabo Declaration is a commitment made by African Union member states in 2014 during the AU Heads of State and Government Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The declaration is aimed at accelerating agricultural growth and transformation in Africa to improve food security, reduce poverty, and achieve sustainable development on the continent.

Key objectives of the Malabo Declaration include increasing public and private investment in agriculture, ending hunger by 2025, improving agricultural productivity through the adoption of modern technologies, increasing intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services, and enhancing resilience to climate change and other external shocks in the agricultural sector.

The Malabo Declaration serves as a roadmap for African countries to prioritize and advance agricultural development as a critical component of overall economic growth and development on the continent.

The Malabo Declaration has seven commitments, designed to gauge Africa's agriculture transformation for the period 2015-2025, and a vehicle towards the achievement of the objective of the 1st ten-year Implementation Plan of Africa's Agenda 2063. The goals of Malabo include reducing levels of poverty, ending hunger on the continent and tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods, among others by 2025.

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), is the policy framework for actualizing this goal.

EAC has embraced and domesticated the CAADP agenda and is committed to the June 2014, African Heads of State Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa.

Key achievements under the CAADP programme include the following;

- a) Adoption and signing of the EAC CAADP Compact by the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security in 2017. The EAC CAADP Compact was developed with the objective of catalyzing and facilitating the coordination of regional and crosscutting programmes of regional nature. It is a high-level commitment and agreement that defines EAC agricultural transformation priorities and focuses on facilitating coordination of regional programs that complement agricultural programs at the national level contained in the national CAADP compacts and national agriculture investment plans (NAIPs).
- b) In an effort to operationalize the CAADP Compact, the EAC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) was adopted as a regional coordination and harmonization framework whose purpose is to complement and accelerate achievement of CAADP goals at the national levels. It also serves as a central instrument to rally financial, institutional and technical support required to drive agricultural transformation.
- c) EAC Partner States developed Malabo compliant National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) that are aligned to the EAC RAIP. NAIPs are the main vehicles for implementation and actualization of Malabo Declaration commitments.
- d) Establishment of High Level Forum to track the status of attainment of CAADP goals among the EAC Partner states;

A Biennial Agricultural Review takes place every two years and is a critical component of the CAADP process. It involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on implementation progress in achieving commitments under the CAADP/Malabo Declaration.

The 3rd Biennial Report was finalized in 2021 and submitted to the AU General Assembly in February 2022. The performance of Partner States was reported to the 15th SCAFS.

The reporting is at Country level and each country is assessed based on its fulfilments of the commitments to the Malabo Declaration and the ranked on that basis. Within the EAC, Kenya was ranked second after Rwanda.

However, the attainment of the 10% budgetary allocation is a gradual process and Partner States are progressively moving towards this target albeit at different pace depending on individual States competing needs.

14 . A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY CONDEMNING THE ATTACK BY THE ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES (AD F) ON LHUBIRIR A SECONDARY SCHOOL, KASESE DISTRICT IN THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE TOWN KASINDIIN NORTH KMU

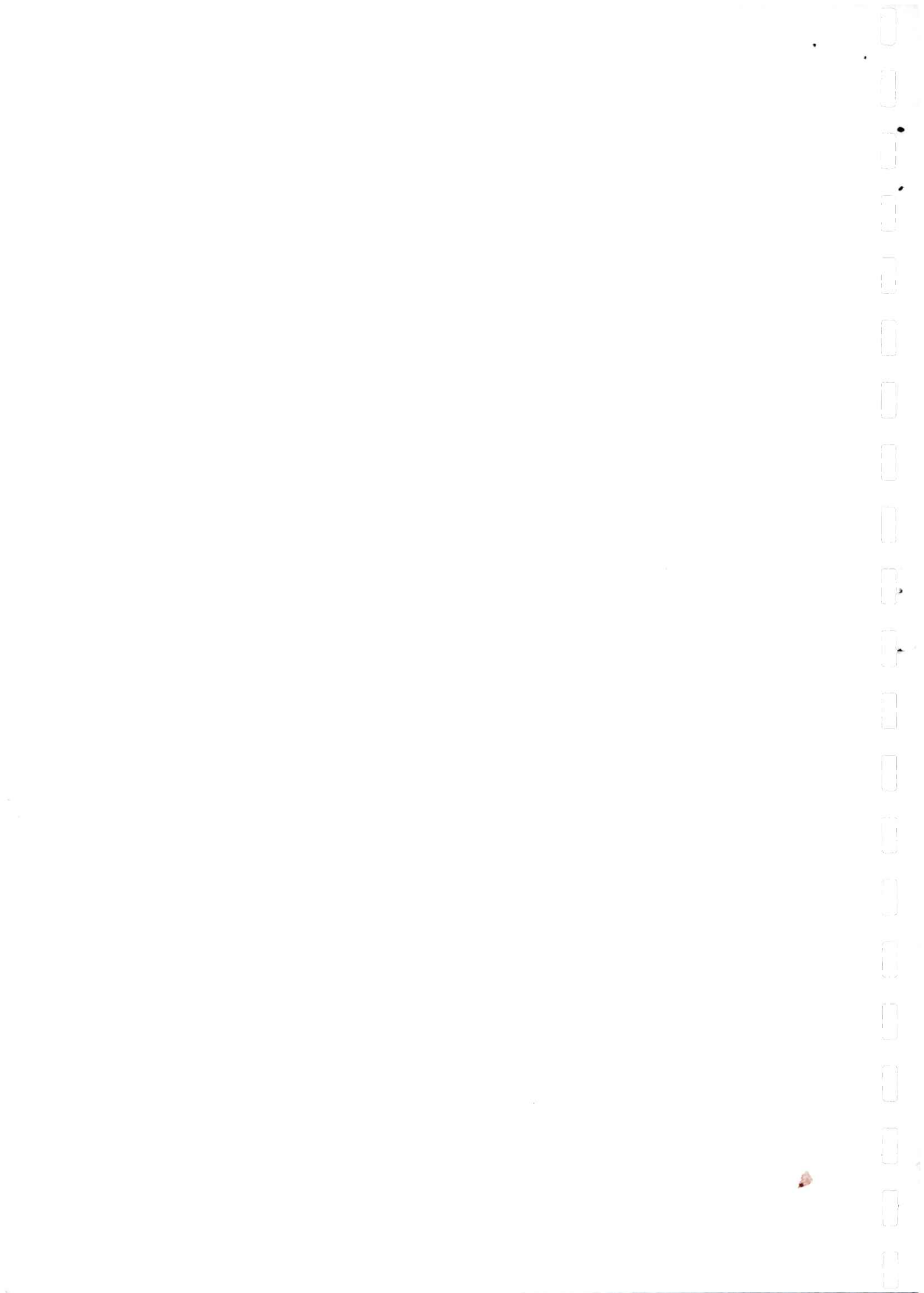
- a) Suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked church goers in the town of Kasindi in North Kivu on 15th January 2023. Over 17 people were killed and 36 people wounded.
- b) ADF is also suspected to have attacked Lhubirira Secondary school in Kasese District on 16th June 2023 killing 42 people, 37 being school children.
- c) ADF has caused a lot of havoc in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Western Uganda displacing over 800,000 civilian population and disrupting economic activities.
- d) The group is an Islamist rebel group originating in Uganda and operating in the South Western part of Uganda and the Eastern part of the DRC.

Status of Security in Eastern DRC

- a) Persistent insecurity in eastern DRC, home to over a 100 rebel groups, makes for a complex geopolitical landscape.
- b) The struggle for control over the region's rich natural resources and the involvement of armed militias as proxies by external players has resulted in millions of deaths and displacements. The extraction of these resources has prompted significant investment by foreign- owned companies in machinery, personnel, road connections, and transport equipment to optimize their operations.
- c) Consequently, there is a growing demand for adequate security to protect these processes, including the safe transportation of valuable raw materials, amidst hostility from local militias and regional players. As a result, some companies resort to hiring global private security firms like the controversial Wagner Group or even engaging dissatisfied military or local militia groups.
- d) Through the Nairobi Process on restoration of peace and security in Eastern DRC, The EAC Heads of State in June 2022, called on all Armed Groups to lay down their arms voluntarily and pursue their interests through the avenues provided under the EAC-led Nairobi process.

- e) The Heads of State deployed an East African Regional Force (EACRF) to work with the military and administrative forces of the DRC to stabilize and secure the peace an in the DRC. Pursuant to this decision Kenyan troops were deployed to the Joint Operation Area from November 2022, with Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan following suit in March and April, 2023.
- f) The EAC regional force was conceived as a new initiative to bring peace and stability through military intervention in eastern DRC. Kenya took the lead, being perceived as a neutral actor, distinguishing itself from the DRC's other neighboring countries who had played a role in DRC's conflicts
- g) The mandate of the EACRF expired on 8th December 2023. Hence the EACRF exited DRC beginning 3rd December 2023.
- h) The situation continues to be characterized by clashes among the various Armed Groups (AGs), targeted killings, abductions and assassinations of key local leaders.
- i) Uganda has embarked on new road construction projects in eastern DRC, which are closely linked to the security and defense agreement between the two countries.

The Republic of Kenya should continue playing a leading role aimed at achieving a comprehensive political resolution, including dialogue and justice in order to bring lasting results in DRC.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



CLERK'S CHAMBERS

EAC Headquarters
Tel: +255 27 2162122
Fax: +255 27 2162179
E-mail: clerk@eachq.org
Web: http://www.eala.int

P.O. Box 1096
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Ref: EALA/STP/ 18

5th July, 2024

Mr. Makuc Makuc Ngong
Clerk
Transitional National Legislative Assembly
JUBA – REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. Kapandi Rohani Bosco
Clerk of National Assembly
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. Tshiyaya Kasongo
Clerk of the Senate
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. Ferdinand SINDARIRONKA
Secretary General
Burundi National Assembly
Bujumbura -BURUNDI

Mr. NIYONZIMA Renovat
Secretary General
Burundi Senate
Bujumbura – BURUNDI

Mr. J. M. Nyengenyne, CBS
Clerk of the Senate /
Secretary Parliamentary Service Commission
Parliament of Kenya
Nairobi – KENYA

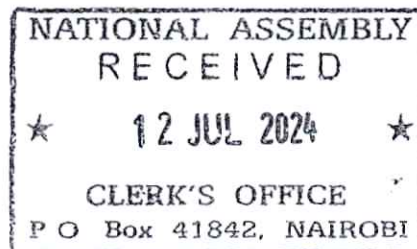
Mr. Samuel J. Njoroge, CBS
Clerk
Kenya National Assembly
Nairobi - KENYA

Amb. Jeanine Kambanda
Clerk
Rwanda Chamber of Deputies
Kigali – RWANDA

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For tabling & onward
transmission to relevant
Committee.
H/O 17/7/24



Clerk,
Rwanda Senate
Kigali, RWANDA

Hon. Adolf Kasaija Mwesige
Clerk to Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
Kampala – UGANDA

Ms. Nanelwa Joyce Mwiambi
Clerk
Tanzania National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Dodoma – TANZANIA

Dear Clerk/Secretary General

**BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 4TH
MEETING – 2ND SESSION – 5TH ASSEMBLY: 23RD JUNE – 4TH JULY, 2024, ARUSHA,
TANZANIA**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 65 of the Treaty, I have the honour to submit to you copies of the business transacted by the Assembly and Bills passed/ introduced during the 4th Meeting – 2nd Session – 5th Assembly, held in the EALA Chamber, EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania, for your information and further action. Thus: -

1. **The EAC Budget Speech for FY 2024/2025**
2. **Report of the Committee on Supply and the Committee of Ways and Means; and the Financial Instruments for the EAC Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025.**
3. **The following Committees reports were Tabled/ Adopted:**
 - (i) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY 2023/2024.
 - (ii) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.
 - (iii) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.
 - (iv) The Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the On-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.
 - (v) Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of

Conducting National General Election: 15th - 22nd May, 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda.

- (vi) Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN) and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.

4. The following Bills passed;

- (i) The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.
- (ii) The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024.

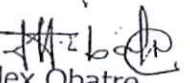
5. Resolution adopted;

- (i) A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Honourable Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.

6. Administration of Oath to:

- i) Hon. Didier Mazenga Mukanzu, Minister of State, Ministry of Regional Integration, DRC.
- ii) Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva – The EAC Secretary General.

Accept, Clerk/Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Alex Obatre

CLERK TO THE ASSEMBLY

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THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
BILLS SUPPLEMENT

No. 4

10th May, 2024.

to the East African Community Gazette No. 12 of 10th May, 2024.

Printed by the Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation, Entebbe by Order of the East African Community.

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID		 JUMUYA YA AFRIKA MASHARIKI
DATE: 01 AUG 2024		
Tabled BY: DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP		DAY: THURSDAY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024
CLERK AT THE TABLE: A-SHIBUKO		

MEMORANDUM

The object of this Bill is to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025.

HON. DENG ALOR KUOL
Chairperson
Council of Ministers.

East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

1. Short title and commencement
2. Appropriation for financial year ending 30th June, 2025

East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024

A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION ACT, 2024**

An Act of the Community to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025.

ENACTED by the East African Community and assented to by the Heads of State.

1. This Act may be cited as the East African Community Appropriation Act, 2024 and shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of July, 2024.

Short
title and
Commence-
ment.

2. Appropriation of the sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two is allowed out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community, as specified in the Schedule, for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025.

Appro-
priation for
financial
year ending
30th June,
2025.

East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024


SCHEDULE

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APPROPRIATION FOR THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS
OF THE COMMUNITY FOR
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 2025

Vote	Organ or Institution of the Community	Amount in US Dollars
001	EAC Secretariat	51,677,120
002	East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	4,858,553
003	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	20,469,040
004	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	7,787,519
005	Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)	17,287,618
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	3,109,586
007	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)	2,177,192
008	East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	1,641,445
009	East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	2,451,157
010	East African Competition Authority (EACA)	1,525,212
	TOTAL	112,984,442

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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LTD
 DATE: **01 AUG 2024**

Tabled BY: _____
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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
 EAST AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONOURABLE DR. SHOGO RICHARD MLOZI

(Moved under Articles 49, and 59(1) of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly)

Moved by Hon. (Dr) Gerald Blacks Siranda and adopted by the Assembly on 24th June, 2024

WHEREAS the late Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi joined this Assembly in December, 2022 as one of the 9 Members elected by the National Assembly of Tanzania to represent the United Republic of Tanzania for 5 years in the 5th Assembly from 2022 until 2027;

AND WHEREAS upon commencement of the 5th Assembly and due to the vast knowledge, experience, skills and passion that Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi had in tourism, she became a member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Tourism and the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution;

SADDENED by the death of Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi which occurred on Thursday 13th June, 2024 here in Arusha;

RECOGNISING that the Assembly greatly benefitted from the resourcefulness of Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi built through a distinguished career of exemplary service in research and teaching in the tourism and hospitality sector culminating in her appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the National College of Tourism in 2017 until 2022 when she joined the Assembly;

APPRECIATING the contribution of Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi to training and nurturing talent through her outstanding achievements in academia and in the political arena and her patriotism and passion in promoting socio-economic growth and development among the youth through developmental initiatives to bolster youth engagement and foster deeper integration within the East African Community which she championed through her *Fungua Trust Organization*;

FURTHER APPRECIATING Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi for her role in engaging and empowering the youth with comprehensive insights into the EAC integration process and providing avenues for active youth participation in the EAC economy;

REMEMBERING with pride and gratitude her love for integration and her passion for research and everything to do with tourism which was evident throughout her interactions with Members, staff and stakeholders;

RECALLING the commitment of Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi to the work of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and this Assembly and to the service of the people of East Africa.

GRATEFUL to the Parliament of Tanzania and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for sending and electing the Late Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi to Assembly to make the enormous and invaluable contribution that she made to the East African Community until her untimely demise on 13th June, 2024;

COGNISANT of the provisions of Article 49 (2) (d) of the Treaty, which empowers the Assembly to discuss any matter pertaining to the Community;

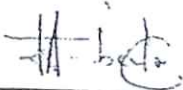
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS: -

THAT in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty, the Assembly:

- (a) Recognises the service of the Late Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi to the United Republic of Tanzania, this Assembly and the East African Community; ~~##~~

- (b) Is grateful to the Late Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi for her dedication and service as a member of the Assembly from December, 2022 until her untimely demise on 13th June, 2024;
- (c) Pays tribute to the Late Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi and commiserates with the family of Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi, the people and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi political party upon the passing of the Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.

Certified by:



Alex Obatre Lumumba
CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY

24/6/2024
DATE

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THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
BILLS SUPPLEMENT

No. 4

10th May, 2024.

to the East African Community Gazette No. 12 of 10th May, 2024.

Printed by the Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation, Entebbe by Order of the East African Community.

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID DATE: 01 AUG 2024		 THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY JAMUWA YA AFRIKA MASHARIKI
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY	
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	A. SHIBURU APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024	

MEMORANDUM

The object of this Bill is to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025.

HON. DENG ALOR KUOL
*Chairperson
Council of Ministers.*

East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

1. Short title and commencement
2. Appropriation for financial year ending 30th June, 2025

A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION ACT, 2024**

An Act of the Community to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025.

ENACTED by the East African Community and assented to by the Heads of State.

1. This Act may be cited as the East African Community Appropriation Act, 2024 and shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of July, 2024. Short title and Commencement.

2. Appropriation of the sum of United States Dollars one hundred and twelve million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-two is allowed out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the organs and institutions of the Community, as specified in the Schedule, for the financial year ending 30th June, 2025. Appropriation for financial year ending 30th June, 2025.


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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUEST AND THE EAC SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024 THURSDAY	
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	A. SHIBUKO

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

June 2024

2.0 METHODOLOGY

During the consideration of the supplementary budget, the Committee:

- (a) Held meetings in Arusha, Tanzania from 6th – 8th June 2024 and interfaced with the Heads of Organs and Institutions, and other relevant staff of the Community.
- (b) Interacted with the Chairperson, Council of Ministers and the Secretary General on 25th June 2024.
- (c) Scrutinized the detailed supplementary budget request, the Financial Statements and the Bill.
- (d) Received and reviewed submissions by the Heads of Organs and Institutions on the supplementary budget.
- (e) Made reference to the Treaty, the EAC Budget Act and other relevant laws of the Community.
- (f) The Committee prepared the report for consideration by the Assembly.

3.0 THE LAW APPLICABLE

1. Article 132 of the Treaty provides for the sources of funding, and the process of initiating and approving the budget of the Community. Article 132(5) specifically provides that *"the resources of the Community shall be utilised to finance activities of the Community as shall be determined by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Council"*.
2. Section 4 of the EAC Budget Act, 2009 mandates the Committee on General Purpose to consider, discuss and review the budget and submit its report to the House.
3. Section 4(5) of the Budget Act further provides that, *"In the exercise of their function under this section, a Committee of the Assembly may call a member of the Council, the Secretary General, any person holding office in the Community, or any person holding a public office in the Partner States and private individuals to submit memorandum or appear before it to give evidence"*.
4. Section 7(1) of the EAC Budget Act provides that, *"The total supplementary expenditure that requires resources over and above what is appropriated by the Assembly shall not exceed 5% of the total approved budget for that financial year without prior approval by the Assembly"*.
5. Section 7(2) of the same Act further provides that, *"Where funds are expended under sub-section (1), supplementary estimates showing the sums*

spent shall be laid before the Assembly within three months after the money is spent”.

6. Regulation 19(4) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations provides that, “A supplementary budget shall constitute a request submitted by the Secretary General to the Council for additional resources to meet new or existing programmes and activities of the Community within the financial year.
7. The same Regulation 19(5) provides that, “A supplementary budget shall be necessitated by the following events: -
 - a) Where voting of additional resources is so urgent that the provision cannot be delayed until the next annual budget is approved; or
 - b) Where the financial resources required cannot be obtained through the budget reallocation process.
8. Another guiding principle in budgeting is that, a supplementary budget can be raised upon securing/collecting additional revenues over and above what was initially budgeted for in a given financial year.

4.0 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

According to the Chair Council, this supplementary budget request of USD 11,148,996 will be used by the relevant Organs and Institutions to implement the projects and programs indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Projects and Programs funded by Supplementary Budget in the Financial Year 2023/2024

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
EAC-Secretariat	Negotiation between EAC and the Federal Republic of Somalia	General Reserve fund	260,247	Page 22-23
	to support Political Confederation related activities,	special contribution from Republic of Kenya	480,000	Page 74-75
	sub totals		740,247	
	Development Partners Funds			
	to facilitate Connectivity Market Development and Integration activities under the Directorate of Infrastructure	World Bank Regional Digital Integration Project	323,100	Page 40-43

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration under department of Information Communication and Technology	World Bank Regional Digital Integration Project	640,200	Page 43-45
	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration activities under the Department of International Trade	World Bank Regional Digital Integration Project	240,550	Page 45-46
	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration activities under the department of Fiscal & Monetary Affairs	World Bank Regional Digital Integration Project	117,000	Page 46-47
	to facilitate Project Management and Implementation Support under the department of Information Communication and Technology	World Bank Regional Digital Integration Project	349,000	Page 47-48
	to facilitate Conducting of Time Release Studies along priority corridors in EAC	AFDB EAC Capacity Building Project	270,500	Page 48-49
	to facilitate the provision of consultancy services, in raising the Community's visibility through improved media relations, EAC's Project Coordination Unit and strengthening communication and the flow of information between the Secretariat and Francophone Partner States	GIZ through German Support to East African Market Driven & People Centred Integration	210,085	Page 50-51
	to facilitate the activities under the Environment and Natural Resources Management related to Participation to COP28 in Dubai, UAE	GIZ	103,000	Page 52-54

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
	to facilitate the labour and immigration sector for the development of the EAC Decent Work Programme - 2023-2027	Grant from the International Labour Organisation	45,700	Page 54-56
	to facilitate EAC annual heads of organs, executive staff, heads of institutions directors retreat, capacity Building for Executive on engagement on resource mobilization, monitoring and implementation and capacity building trainings for EAC staff	Donation from the Government of the People's Republic of China	180,000	Page 76-78
	subtotals- DPs		2,479,385	
Total-EAC-Secretariat			3,219,632	
	Development Partners Funds			
East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	to facilitate 2nd Regional Media Training for Editors and Journalists on Judicial Reporting in the East African Community	UNESCO	28,050	Page 79
Total for EACJ			28,050	
East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	For expenses incurred during the General-Purpose Committee Meeting held in Arusha between 26 th September - 3 rd October, 2023	General Reserve fund	117,160	Page 35-38
Total for EALA			117,160	
Lake Victoria Basin Commission	To facilitate repairs of the Research Vessel (RV) Jumuiya	Miscellaneous income-LVBC	35,540	Page 27-29

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
(LVBC)	To purchase the LVBC Vehicle	Miscellaneous income-LVBC	55,000	Page 29
	Construction of the LVBC Headquarters	Special Reserves Fund held at LVBC	1,263,679	Page 29-31
	sub totals -LVBC		1,354,219	
	to facilitate the implementation of the Adapting to Climate Change activities at LVBC	UNEP	508,958	Page 56-61
	funded by the African Development Bank to facilitate implementation of Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communications and Transport (MLVMCT) project activities	African Development Bank	388,450	Page 61-66
	to support the implementation of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission project activities	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	250,550	Page 66-69
sub totals -DPs			1,147,958	
Total-LVBC			2,502,177	
Inter-University Council for East African (IUCEA)	To undertake construction of phase II Headquarters	Arrears reserve Fund	3,799,260	Page 31-34
Total for IUCEA			3,799,260	
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	To eliminate power outage effects on the Data Centres	LVFO-Reserve Fund	72,600	Page 39
	To undertake major repairs of cracks in the LVFO Secretariat buildings	LVFO-Reserve Fund	16,300	Page 39-40
	to procure a solar powered security light system for the LVFO Secretariat,	Miscellaneous Income-Lake Victoria Fisheries	10,900	Page 84-85

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
		Organization (LVFO)		
	to procure a new Motor Vehicle for the LVFO Executive Secretary	Miscellaneous Income-interest (LVFO)	55,000	Page 85
	subtotal LVFO (Misc. income)		154,800	
	to enable implementation of the EEOFISH project activities	European Union through the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)	274,329	Page 70-73
	to implement a project for finalization of Investment Guide in Aquaculture,	Food and Agriculture Organization	55,000	Page 85-86
	to implement activities of the Multiple Tipping Points at Lake Victoria (Multi-Tip), the training and piloting of potential of a price subsidy intervention as a policy for the management of the <i>dagaa</i> , collection of data to provide the empirical evidence for potential of a price subsidy intervention	Germany Government through Research Centre for Environmental Economics (RCEE) of the University of Heidelberg Germany	109,638	Page 86-88
	to implement the activities of Lake Victoria Small Fish Project	International Fund for Agricultural Development	561,777	Page 88-93
	subtotal-DPs		1,000,744	
	Total-LVFO		1,155,544	
East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTEKO)	to facilitate East African Science and Technology Commission to develop the 2nd Report on the State of the Bio economy in Eastern Africa, 2024	Bio Innovate Africa	25,000	Page 69-70
Total EASTEKO	Development Partners		25,000	

Organ/Institution	Project/Programme	Funding Source	Amount in USD	Page, Council report
East African Health Research Commission	To hold the 9th East African Health & Scientific Conference	unused funds from Partner States contribution held at East African Health Research Commission	179,177	Page 23-25
	To hold the 9th EAHSC Post conference meeting to review the recommendations and develop policy briefs	unused funds from Partner States contribution held at East African Health Research Commission	53,680	Page 25-27
	Acquisition of EAHRC Assets	"	52,265	Page 25-27
	subtotal		285,122	
	Development Partners Funds			
	To facilitate policy brief to be developed from UPTAKE findings & monitoring the adoption and uptake of the findings for East African Health Research Commission,	Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics, Inc	17,301	Page 81-83
	Subtotal		17,301	
Total EAHRC			302,423	
Grand Total				11,148, 996

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following findings, observations and recommendations:

1. It was noted that the supplementary budget under consideration represents 10.73% of the approved budget of the Community for the financial year 2023/24.

2. During our interaction with the officers responsible for the implementation of this supplementary budget, they informed the committee that some of the programs will not be implemented in FY 2023/24 due to the limitation of time.
3. The Regulation 19(5) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations provides that, *"A supplementary budget shall be necessitated by the following events: -*
 - c) *Where voting of additional resources is so urgent that the provision cannot be delayed until the next annual budget is approved; or*
 - d) *Where the financial resources required cannot be obtained through the budget reallocation process.*
4. A review of the programs/activities under the supplementary budget revealed that most of them did not meet the criteria outlined in Regulation 19(5) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations. Suffice to note that these activities were not very urgent, and could therefore wait to be implemented in the next financial year. Attached is a list of the activities whose funds had not been committed and cannot therefore be implemented in FY 2023/24 (Annex 1). The total cost of these programs/projects is USD 1,441,400.
The Committee recommends that a sum of USD1,441,400 for programs and projects that cannot be implemented in this supplementary budget be include in the budget for financial year 2025/26 through a corrigendum that will be prepared by the Chair Council of Ministers.
5. The supplementary budget was presented to the Assembly barely two months to the closure of the financial year. Owing to liquidity challenges in the Community, the Assembly could not commence the consideration of the same until the second week of June 2024, and the Assembly is expected to approve the same on 28th June 2024. Therefore, it is not possible to implement these activities, especially those whose implementation had not commenced at the time of considering this request.
The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to ensure timely submission of the supplementary budget to the Assembly, preferably not later than February to afford the Organs and Institutions ample time for program implementation before the closure of the financial year.
6. The Committee noted that there were irregular expenditures made by the Secretariat in respect of the following activities in the supplementary budget.
 - i) Negotiation between EAC and the Federal Republic of Somalia – **USD 260,246**. The EAC Secretariat which spearheaded this exercise had a delegation of 35 staff most of whom did not have the requisite technical

expertise to represent the Community in this high-level engagement. Over 50% of this delegation included general staff such as office attendants, personal assistants, drivers, security staff. The Committee also noted with concern that this delegation did not include representation from Partner States yet the matter under consideration required their input.

The Committee recommends that whenever constituting delegations to represent the Community, the Secretary General should take into account prudent use of the Community finances, expertise in the subject matter under consideration and the role of Partner States.

- ii) To facilitate the provision of consultancy service in raising visibility of the EAC through improved media relations – USD210, 085. The Committee established that six staff were recruited by the EAC Secretariat without following the established procedure that is provided in the Staff Rules and Regulations. These recruited staff did not have any professional background or expertise in the discipline of communication/public relations. The Committee took note that this matter is part of the ongoing investigation by the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to direct the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges to expedite the investigation into the mismanagement of funds of the community by the former Secretary General.

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7. Whereas supplementary budgets are permissible under the EAC Budget Act, it is a violation of prudent planning and budgeting principles for the Community to perennially come up with supplementary budgets to cater for capital development expenditure. This is proof of poor planning and a failure by the relevant technical officers to appropriately advise the Council of Ministers.
8. The Committee registers its displeasure over the deliberate refusal by the Head of EAHRC and some relevant officers of the EAC Secretariat to appear before the Committee to defend their budgets despite the invitation and numerous reminders extended to them. These officers are Mr. Ssesanga Jonathan, Principal Customs Officer, Mr. Stephen Niyonzima, Principal Labour and Employment Officer, and Mr. Etyang Davids, Chef de Cabinet. The actions of these officers tantamount to contempt of the Assembly.
The Committee urges the Secretary General to interest herself in this matter with the view to instituting disciplinary proceedings against the aforementioned officers.
9. Owing to the refusal by the above officers to appear before the Committee, we could not ascertain the status of implementation of programs and projects

whose implementation is directly under their control. The Committee ascertain the amount of money so far spent on the projects and programs under their purview as indicated in Table.1.

10. Section 7(1) of the Budget Act provides that "*The total supplementary expenditure that requires additional resources over and above what is appropriated by the Assembly shall not exceed 5% of the total approved budget for that financial year without prior approval by the Assembly*". The Committee was informed that a sum of USD 9,707,556 which represents 9.34% of the approved EAC budget for FY 2023/24 had been spent at the time of consideration of this supplementary budget. This is gross violation of Section 7(1) of the Budget Act.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly directs the Secretary General to develop Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that the Organs and Institutions to comply with the requirements of Section 7(2) of the Budget Act.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that the Assembly adopts this report and passes the East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 as follows:

Vote	Organ/Institution of the Community	FY 2023/2024
		Amount in US Dollars
001	EAC Secretariat	1,777,942
002	East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	28,050
003	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	117,160
004	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	2,502,177
005	Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)	3,799,260
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)	1,155,544
007	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)	25,000
009	East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	302,423

	TOTAL	9,707,596
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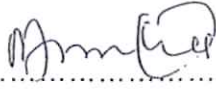
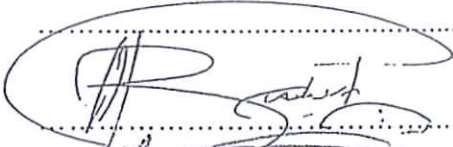
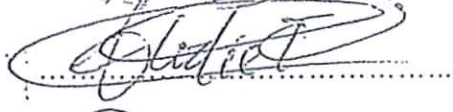


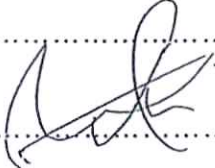
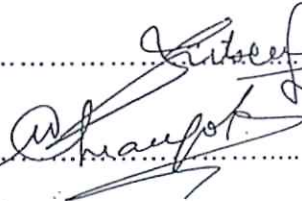
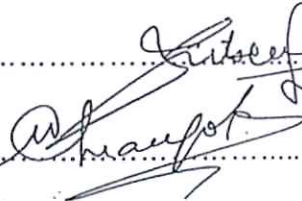
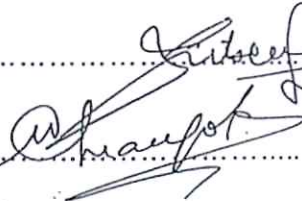
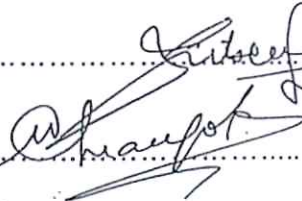
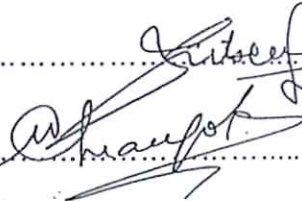
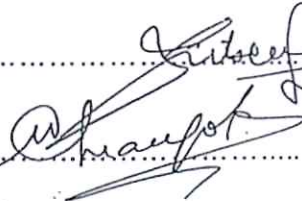
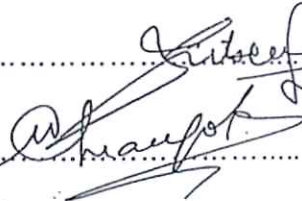
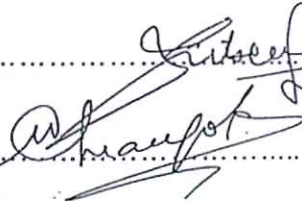
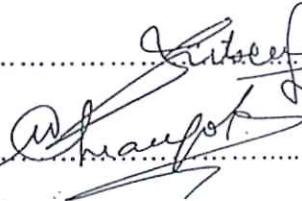
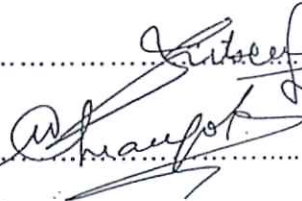
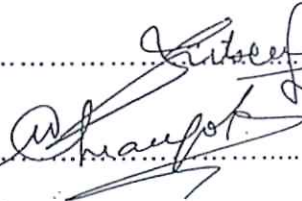
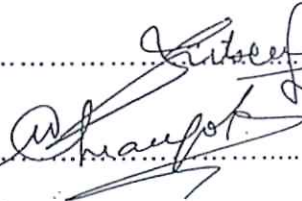
Rt. Hon. Speaker, I beg to report.

ANNEX 1: PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY BECAUSE FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN COMMITTED

	Activity Description	Estimates (USD)	Amount recommended for appropriation in the supplementary budget	Amount Recommended for appropriation in the FY 2024/25
1.	To facilitate Connectivity Market Development and Integration activities under the Directorate of Infrastructure	323,100	53,500 Funds have been committed to Convene 1st meeting of Experts Technical for all Ministry responsible for ICT and Network Regulators from each partner state Development	269,600 Justification Funds for other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
2.	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration under department of Information Communication and Technology	640,200	59,360 To convene a Meeting of Experts Technical Working Group on Cross-border data roaming, Digital infrastructure, Cyber Security and Data privacy and protection	580,840 Justification Funds have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
3.	To facilitate Online Market Development and Integration activities under the Department of International Trade	240,550	46,250 To Convene a meeting of the Working Group on Digital Trade to consider detailed work plans for Connectivity Market Development and Integration	194,300 Justification Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
4.	to facilitate Online Market Development and	117,000	69,300	47,700 Justification

	Integration activities under the department of Fiscal & Monetary Affairs		To convene a Regional workshop to consider the inception report of the EAC payment systems masterplan	Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
5.	to facilitate Project Management and Implementation Support under the department of Information Communication and Technology	349,000	NIL	USD349,000 <i>Justification</i> Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
	Total	1,669,850	228,410	1,441,440

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL-PURPOSE ON THE EAC
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR FY 2023/2204

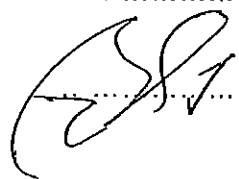
1. Hon. Kennedy Mukulia Ayason 
2. Hon. Aboubakar A. Kachwamba 
3. Hon. Alex Bahati 
4. Hon. Alodie Iradukunda 
5. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndingiza 
6. Hon. Anastase Manirambona 
7. Hon. Dennis Namara 
8. Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame 
9. Hon. Dr. Saidi Kibeya 
10. Hon. Francois M. Ngate 
11. Hon. Gai Deng Nhial 
12. Hon. Godffrey Maina Mwangi 
13. Hon. Jeremie Maswama 
14. Hon. Kanini Kega 
15. Hon. Khalfan Ngole Mashaka 
16. Hon. Kim Gai 
17. Hon. Paul Mwasu Musamali 
18. Hon. Rose Akol Okullu 

19. Hon. Stella Nyota Mwetaminwa

20. Hon. Victor Burikukiye

21. Hon. Winnie I. Odinga

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A handwritten signature in black ink is written over the dotted lines. The signature is stylized and appears to be a combination of initials and a surname, possibly 'W. Odinga'.

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02/8/24

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY




EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE & GENERAL ASSEMBBLY MEETING
NAIROBI - KENYA

15 - 17 OCTOBER 2023

MÖVENPICK HOTEL & RESIDENCES, NAIROBI, KENYA

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024	DAY: THURSDAY
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	A. SHIBUKO

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

October 2023

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ACRONYMS

EALA	East African Community
EAPA-FSN	Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
REC	Regional Economic Communities
GAM	General Assembly Meeting
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
MP	Members of Parliament
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization for Food Security

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN) is an alliance of Members of Parliament from Eastern Africa, which aims to leverage the critical role of Parliamentarians to advance the food and nutrition agenda in the region. This is in the line with the increasing momentum globally for engaging Members toward achieving food security-related goals. This Alliance was launched on 15th April, 2019 in Arusha United Republic of Tanzania, to position food security and nutrition at the highest level of the political and legislative agenda to contribute to the achievement of the development objectives of the member countries and regional economic communities (RECs).

Every year, the Alliance organizes the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) to make the follow-up on the achievements made by the Alliance, challenges and lessons learnt and deliberate on future actions in the region to advance FSN agenda. This meeting also provides an opportunity to deliberate on technical theme usually facilitated by FAO experts and learn from a country's best practice through field visit.

So far the Alliance has held four GAM in four countries, namely United Republic of Tanzania in Arusha on April, 2019, Kampala Republic of Uganda on November 2019, Djibouti Republic of Djibouti March 2020 and Rwanda on December 2022. The next GAM planned to take place in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya in October 2023. The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) was represented by Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza, the Chairperson Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Hon. Machano Ali Machano Member of EALA from Zanzibar and Hon. Woda Jeremiah Odok the EAPA-FSN General Secretary who is also a Member of EALA. Other delegates to the meeting were Members of the Parliament from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and IGAD and the Staff/Clerks from the National Assembly. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations technically and financially supported this meeting.

2. Methodology

The EAPA-FSN General Assembly Meeting held in Nairobi Kenya at the Mövenpick Hotel & Residences, organized in collaboration with the Kenya National Parliament and the Food and Agriculture Organization for United Nations under the theme "Fostering linkages between Climate Action and Food Systems Transformation." This meeting had the three agenda/activities, which are technical seminar, the statutory meeting of the EAPA-FSN and a field visit (as a commemorating the World Food Day 2023).

The technical seminar combined presentations from experts on climate action, food systems, and Nutrition, followed by the Members of Parliaments' discussion on the current legal and policy issues/gaps related to climate actions and food systems transformation in their respective countries, existing opportunities, and priority actions to better advance this agenda in the region.

The Meeting officially opened by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon. Moses Wetangula.

3. Objectives of the meeting

The 2023 Eastern Africa parliamentary dialogue explored legal issues and key parliamentary actions to foster linkages between climate action and food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Sensitize the Members of Parliament on the inter linkages between diets, food systems and climate change, and highlight the importance of addressing nutritional and environmental challenges through joint policy options to generate co-benefits for people and the planet.
- Discuss policy options and financing mechanism to accelerate climate smart-food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.
- Take stock of EAPA FSN and national alliances' achievements, successes, lessons learnt and challenges;
- Deliberate on the conduct of the affairs of the Alliance, including the performance, challenges, hosting agreement, partnership, resource mobilization, etc.

This GAM gave opportunity to Members of Parliaments and other participants for a field visit to learn about some initiatives and projects that may be scaled-up in their respective country as part of knowledge sharing.

4. Meeting proceedings

4.1. Technical Seminar - Climate change, agriculture and food and nutrition security. October 15th, 2023

The theme of this technical seminar was "Fostering linkages between Climate Action and Food Systems Transformation." The discussions during this technical seminar highlighted the unique role Parliaments play in fostering an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, given their specific function in the areas of legislation, government programs oversight and voting the national budget. Some national laws that are relevant for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems already exist in various countries, in particular with respect to the realization of the right to adequate food. However, the situation differs across regions, and in most cases, their implementation is still deficient due to several factors. More specifically in the Eastern Region where climate change issues are more, serious compared to other regions.

Parliamentarians recognized through FAO report that there is a food crisis in East Africa. Climate-related droughts, combined with ongoing conflict, have left up to 20 million people hungry. East Africa has been facing a food crisis on and off since 2011, including most recently in 2020 and 2022(due to the COVID 19 impacts).

Given this fact, the Members of the Parliaments recalled that a proper understanding of this theme would equip them for championing food security and nutrition (FSN) in the region. As policy makers, they urged to think about future generations, their lives and make a region press release on best practices within member countries. As everyone are aware of the effects of Climate change on food security, MPs committed to advocate and create resources to support food systems, as it is said "Stunted children equal to stunt Economies."

Climate change defined as long terms shifts in temperature and weather patterns and Parliamentarians realized that some effects of climate change are increased length of droughts, extreme rainfall and floods, longer heat waves that are more frequent, desert locus outbreaks, Malaria, rift valley fever, dengue and cholera. This resulted in rising number of climate change refugees in different countries.

As part of mitigation of climate change impact, Parliamentarians are to play their role for making a legal environment for more options for interventions for food systems transformation and improved nutrition. This based on different government commitments at all levels. As people representatives, they have to play a big role for financial mechanisms and opportunities including carbon markets and adaptation to

minimize loss and damage. In their oversight activities, parliamentarians have to urge their governments to embark on possible actions such as Sustainable Climate responsive agriculture, nature-based solutions, urban planning, energy transition, industry and transport and early warning systems.

4.2. Official Opening ceremony. October 16th, 2023

The opening ceremony was officiated by Right Hon. Moses Wetangula, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya and other officials including Kenyan Minister of Agriculture, FAO Special Advisor to Acting Director General Africa Region and FAO Eastern Africa Representative.

In their opening remarks, they highlighted that 50% of 125 Million of Eastern Africa Population are facing hunger and it is a celebration of World Food Day, all partners and stakeholders have to lead a war of hunger, improve nutrition to mitigate the impact of Climate change on health, education, food and nutrition Security.

They recalled that Africa is 70 years old since the independence, while the fathers of independence committed to end Poverty, Ignorance and Diseases, we are still facing hunger and children are not going to schools in most part of our countries.

Africa has 65% of the world arable land, yet Ukraine that is smaller than Tanzania has destabilized the whole world food systems and many Africans are going to Israel to learn on how food is produced in a desert.

He gave a homework to the MPs who legislate, oversee government programs and represent people to make sure that they are leading Africa in the right direction. Because, even the rich Africans are African by skin and names and are not contributing to solve problems of Africa due to lack of enabling environment and uncertainties to invest in Africa. MPs have to engineer positive changes on the continent which take into consideration the linkages between food systems and climate change and mobilize people to not rely on only maize as the .only food stuff but integrate other food stuffs for more alternatives in case there is issues which affect one crop. They also have to put in place mechanisms to bridge the gaps between those who have nothing to eat at all and those who don't know what to do with what they eat and sensitize Africans to consume more African produced food not importing expensive food stuff from Europe and Asia.

4.3. Adoption of the Country Alliances Reports, Conclusions and recommendations from the fourth General Assembly and founding document.

After presentation of EAPA-FSN country alliances reports that highlighted key achievements over the last year, the Chair of the session, Hon. Adan Haji Yussuf, Chairperson, EAPA FSN introduced the session and invited Hon. Dr. Woda J .O Jago the Secretary General EAPA FSN to present the EAPA-FSN Executive Committee report.

In her report, Hon. Dr Woda emphasized on the EAPA-FSN 4th General Assembly held in Kigali from December 6th through 9th, 2022 with the theme: "Investing in family for better food and nutrition resilience in Eastern Africa: what role for legislators?" She went on presenting achievements and challenges of EAPA-FSN, National Alliances achievements .Hon,Dr Woda concluded her presentation by highlighting the recommendations made in the last EAPA-FSN 4th General Assembly that were:

- i. Develop a Framework Law on family farming that can be used by countries to develop country specific legislation;
- ii. Support partner countries to develop Family Farming legislation or to support mainstreaming of Family Farming in agriculture related policies, legislation or strategies.
- iii. Induction of the new Members of EAPA FSN especially on the information concerning their roles such as Alliance vision and objective, rules and procedures EAPA FSN organs, responsibilities and partnership

After the presentation the EAPA-FSN Executive Committee Report and comments from Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza, EALA Member for some typing errors in the report, Hon. Agnes, MP from Uganda raised motion to adopt the report that seconded by Hon. Nadra, Hon. Uwumukiza Françoise and Hon. Laetitia.

The EAPA-FSN Executive Committee report adopted, proposed revisions/amendments of the Founding document and other documents also adopted, and the next EAPA-FSN General Assembly Meeting will be in October 2024, in Kampala Uganda.

4.4. Closing Remarks

All those who spoke during the closing session, expressed their gratitude and the opportunity to hear all the speakers' inspirational addresses during the meeting.

The MPs recommended the advances of Food Security and Nutrition issues in their region, and mitigate the effects of Climate Change, using technologies, involving academia, Civil Society Organizations and Private Sectors and raise awareness among consumers for food choices.

They appreciated the EAPA-FSN is maturing into a more responsible organization. Despite the challenges faced, there are also the opportunities. There was a call for action for MPs to push their Ministries of Finance to allocate more funds to the agriculture sector as only seven out of 55 African Countries met the target of Maputo Declaration to allocate 10% of the national budget to the agriculture. MPs urged to take the conversation forward and transform into real actions which impact new generation back home. FAO Representative committed the continued support to the EAPA-FSN for the sustainability of its actions.

5. EAPA-FSN Field Visit.

On the last day, participants to the EAPA-FSN General Assembly Meeting did a field visit to Kiambu County one of 47 counties of Kenya that is characteristic of fertile soils and plenty of rainfall. There are numerous high potential smallholder farms, which pack enough potential to not only feed the county, but also supply Nairobi, Kitui and Kajiado with dairy products, foodstuffs, green vegetables and fresh fruit. Kiambu's horticultural products, coffee and tea, contribute for a lot in Kenya's foreign earnings.

Before arriving to the final destination in Githunguri Constituency (around 40km from Nairobi), EAPA-FSN paid courtesy call to the Governor of Kiambu County, H.E Dr Kimani Wamatangi who briefed delegates about Kiambu County, which has 12 sub-counties from which 8 sub-counties are food secure and other four sub-counties with story of natural calamities. It has a population of 3.5 Million people and it is the seconded populated after Nairobi County.

The county is best example of how very small scale farmers can come together for food security. Its population is very resilient where on their small farms you can find cows, chicken and other livestock. Three quarter of their cows are zero graze with each milking cow producing more than 35 litres per day.

This cemented by the visit to Githunguri Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd, which has 1,500 employees at the plant and more than 4,000 employees in milk collection centers every day. This dairy has the capacity of processing 260,000 Litres per day from

35,000 Litres per day in 2004 when it started and it generates 4 Billion Kenya Shillings (32.5 Billion Rwanda Francs) per month.


Thereafter, delegates visited Wing Farm; a youth led organization on a mission to end hunger sustainably by empowering youths and communities. The organization supported by FAO and it made by 15 youth comprising of nine females and six males. The organization trained 747 farmers in indigenous vegetable farming and agripreneurship, trained more than 150 youth on BSF (Black Soldier Fly) and Azolla farming. They supported the establishment of 12 Azolla ponds and trained 258 poultry farmers on different modern farming techniques. They converted 7 tons of organic waste into organic fertilizer using black soldier fly larvae. Delegates have had opportunity to visit farms, workshops and screen houses where these youths operate and it was a showcase on how agribusiness in Africa has a potential to employ young people and prevent them from migrating to big cities, which do not have job opportunities to accommodate all of them. As their own testimony, before the project young people were idle but now they are helping their family managing their farms and make them more productive than before. They requested MPs not forget young people as all starts are challenging and they need more support to scale-up the project to other young people in other communities.

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 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024	THURSDAY
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CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE: A. SHIBWO	

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT
RESOLUTION ON THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY TO ASSESS THE PROCESSES,
REGULATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF CONDUCTING NATIONAL GENERAL
ELECTION

(15th -22nd May 2024, Republic of Uganda and Rwanda)

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

June, 2024

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
DP	-	Democratic Party
EC	-	Electoral Commission
EMB	-	Election Management Body
FBOs	-	Faith Based Organizations
FDC	-	Forum for Democratic Change
JEEMA	-	Justice Party
IPOD	-	Inter- Party Organization for Dialogue
MOUs	-	Memorandum of understanding
NCF	-	National Conservative Forum
NEC	-	National Electoral Commission
NIDA	-	National Identification Agency
NRM	-	National Resistance Movement
PDC	-	Centrist Democratic Party
PL	-	Liberal Party
PPC	-	Party for progress and Concord
PPP	-	People Progress Party
PSD	-	Social Democratic Party
PSP	-	Prosperity and Solidarity Party
PSR	-	Rwanda Socialist Party
RBA	-	Rwanda Broadcasting Agency
RPF	-	Rwandan Patriotic Front
UPC	-	Uganda People's Congress
UDPR	-	Democratic Union of Rwanda people

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Article 6 (d) of the Treaty stipulates that Partner States adhere to fundamental principles of good governance, including respect for the principles of democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunity, gender equality as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human rights. The basic pillar of democracy is to have a free and fair election in every country. It was against this background that the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution carried out an oversight activity to assess the processes, regulations and challenges of conducting national general elections in the Republic of Uganda and Republic of Rwanda.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY

The objectives of the activity were: -

- i) To evaluate the electoral processes in the Republic of Uganda and Rwanda
- ii) To identify the challenges faced while conducting the national general elections;
- iii) To appreciate the role played by the Electoral Commission;
- iv) To make recommendations for strengthening electoral processes for the benefit of all Partner states.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

During the oversight activity, the Committee was divided into two teams. The first sub-committee visited the Republic of Uganda and the second sub-committee visited the Republic of Rwanda. Members received presentation from various stakeholders. After the interactive meeting with the stakeholders, members had an opportunity to visit the chairpersons of the Electoral Commission in Uganda and Rwanda respectively

In the Republic of Uganda, the sub- committee interacted with stakeholders/ representatives from;

- i. Ministry of the East African Community Affairs;
- ii. The Electoral Commission;
- iii. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
- iv. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- v. Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue;
- vi. Uganda National Student Association;
- vii. National Council for Older Person;
- viii. Inter Party Youth Platform;

- ix. Industrial Court Uganda
- x. EAC Youth Ambassador Platform;
- xi. Foundation for Human Right initiatives;
- xii. National Consultative Forum;
- xiii. Political Parties;
 - a) Justice Forum Party (JEEMA);
 - b) Democratic Party (DP);
 - c) People's Progressive Party;(PPP);
 - d) Forum for Democratic Change (FDC);
 - e) Uganda People's Congress (UPC);
 - f) National Resistance Movement (NRM);

During the interaction with the chairperson of the Commission Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon, he informed the committee that Electoral Commission is a body mandated with organizing, conducting and supervising various elections. He further informed them that the Commission consisted of 7 Commissioners appointed by the President serving a term of 7 years renewable once. The team also paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs.

4.0 KEY FINDINGS, CHALLENGES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

4.1 Stages in the Electoral Process

Mr. Kiyimba Umar the head of the election management department in Uganda informed the committee that Electoral Commission was established by Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda in 1995. It is mandated with the function of promoting democracy and good governance by organizing, conducting and supervising regular free and fair elections. The Commission is composed of a chairman, deputy and five commissioners who are appointed by the President with the approval of parliament. The sub-committee was briefed with the stages of Electoral Process which included;

i. Demarcation of the Electoral Areas

Demarcation of the electoral areas involves creation of electoral boundaries for representation of the people. It is done in case of creation of new constituencies, districts, sub- counties and parishes. The purpose of demarcation is to help in determining the number of elective positions for representation.

ii. Re- organization of Polling Stations

Re- organization of polling stations is done through harmonizing polling stations for easy access by the voters. The importance is to: reduce the distance voters walk to reach polling stations; decongest polling centers hence creating enough space for each polling station; ensure that voters are rightfully placed in parishes; villages/ cells and polling stations; ensure that each polling station is located in an open and accessible area and each parish/ward has at least one polling station.

iii. Update of the National Voter's Register

Members were informed that registers are updated before an election or a by-election. This enables new applicants register as voters and also allow those who wish to transfer to new voting locations to do so.

Iv. Display of the National Voters' Register

It was noted that before any election is held, display of the National Voter Register is conducted at every polling station for not less than twenty-one days. In case of a by-election, display is conducted for 10 days to enable the public to scrutinize the register for any corrections and objections or complaints raised. The registers are displayed to allow voters check the correctness of their particulars, confirm the voters photos appear against their correct particulars and recommend deletions of the dead, the under age, multiple registration and those who neither reside nor originate from the parish/ ward.

V. Nomination of Candidates

Nomination of candidates is when the aspiring candidates for elective offices present their duly filled nomination papers to the returning officer for verification. The aspiring candidates who meet the nomination requirements are declared duly nominated candidates to contest for an elective office then when all requirements are fulfilled Campaigns starts.

4.2 Perspectives of the Inter- Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD)

The team was briefed about the Inter- Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) a political platform consisting of the political parties that have representation in the Parliament of Uganda. It's worth noting that IPOD is not a government entity.

The major purpose of its existence is to seek solutions to Uganda's political parties into viable vehicles of public interest aggregation. The entity currently has 6 members parties including Democratic Party (DP), Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Justice Forum

(JEEMA), National Resistance Movement (NRM), People' Progressive Party (PPP) and Uganda Peoples's Congress (UPC).

Member Political Parties are bound by a memorandum of Understanding signed every after-election cycle. The current MOU runs from 2021- 2026. IPOD is structurally organized in three levels; The Summit of leaders, the Council of Secretaries General and the Secretariat.

Inter- Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) has been of great importance that is to say:

- i. They have organized dialogue session to minimize and de-escalate any tensions arising out of political process;
- ii. Strengthened capacity of political parties in areas like organization management, leadership development, policy formulation and conflict resolution;
- iii. Engages in targeted mentorship programs fostering the growth of emerging leaders with in political parties;
- iv. Undertaken comprehensive initiative aimed at breaking down barriers and ensuring that diverse voices are not only heard but actively participate in political process
- v. Advocating for electoral reforms that promote fair representation and encourage political parties to embrace diversity;
- vi. Empowered and strengthened women and youth with skills, knowledge and resources necessary to actively participate in political processes.

4.3 GENERAL CHALLENGES FACED DURING ELECTION

- i. The composition and the operation of the Uganda Electoral Commission has been a source of heated disputes; Members were informed that the Commission suffers from the perceptions of lack of independence and inefficiency. Although the Uganda Constitution and the legal code provides for the Commission's independence, the Commissioners are appointed by the president. This erodes confidence in the institution's autonomy.

- ii. The budgetary allocations are insufficient to fulfill all the mandated tasks. The funds are also not released on time which hinder the process to go on.
- iii. Discrepancies in voters' registration which include duplication of names, missing names, names registered in the wrong districts and inflated numbers of registered voters which slows down the voting process.
- iv. Monetization or commercialization of politics has significantly influenced the participation of individuals in the electoral process in Uganda. Studies suggest that the high costs associated with political campaigns may deter individuals from actively engaging in politics, as they may lack the financial resources to compete effectively. For instance, a report on the impact of the cost of politics on inclusive political participation in Uganda found that the average amount spent by a candidate during the 2016 elections was Usd 96,000 to 149,000. This financial barrier has led to a political environment where only those with considerable resources can afford to participate
- v. Insufficient civic education significantly impacts people's participation in elections, particularly when compounded by high levels of illiteracy more especially in the rural areas. Without adequate civic knowledge, voters will not fully understand their rights, the electoral process, or the importance of their vote which leads to lower engagement and turnout. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that civic education initiatives often do not target some populations hence leaving a gap in understanding and empowerment. It was also noted that the process starts late and done only during electoral seasons;
- vi. Increased levels of indiscipline and conflict in party primaries which equally spill over to the national elections. Some political leaders are indiscipline which is also reflected in their support base.
- vii. High levels of intolerance across parties causing conflicts and hate;
- viii. Ever increasing role of security agencies in the electoral processes which makes people turn away from participating in elections for fear of being harassed.

4.3.1 SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACED BY OLDER PERSONS AND WOMEN

1. Intimidation Language

The use of intimidation language throughout the political landscape has significantly affected the participation of elderly and women in the electoral process.

2. Ill-health

The elderly people are more prone to ill health that limit their mobility to the voting locations and increase dependency on others.

3. Electoral Violence

Electoral violence in Uganda has a significant impact on the participation of women being referred to as a weak gender and the elderly in the electoral process. The fear and actual instances of violence has deterred them from engaging in political activities, including voting which is a fundamental democratic right.

4. Barriers impacting electoral process

Cultural barriers significantly impact the participation of older persons in Uganda's electoral processes. These barriers can manifest in various forms, such as age-based discrimination, inequitable access to higher education and the burden of household chores that is attributed to women has led to marginalization in political participation and representation.

4.4 OBSERVATIONS

- i. Members observed that the Uganda Judiciary is autonomous. It has always exhibited autonomy because of its independence. This has given confidence to voters to resolve conflicts;
- ii. It was observed that Uganda has taken steps such as the inclusion of women and elderly persons as a special interest group in Parliament, ensuring that they have dedicated representatives to voice out their concerns. The participation of women and elderly in electoral process of Uganda is a cornerstone for societal development and cohesion. Recognized for their vast contributions, they are pivotal in wealth creation, nurturing future generations, and fostering social harmony. Their wisdom and experience are assets in conflict resolution and in maintaining the cultural fabric of the nation;

- iii. It was noted that prisoners and Ugandans in the diaspora are not allowed to vote because Uganda lags behind without laws that simplifies government approaches in handling such issues;
- iv. The Committee observed that the Parliamentary Election Act, 2005 as amended provides that the nomination paper of the aspirants shall be attached with a nomination fee of 3 million Uganda shillings (equivalate to 800usd) which is very high and not refundable.

4.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. To address challenge of low civic education, solutions could include the development of targeted civic education programs that cater for the needs of elderly persons, women and youth by using accessible language and media that are easily understood regardless of literacy levels. Additionally, the creation of more inclusive and accessible voting processes, such as simplified ballot papers and voting assistance, could help accommodate all voters;
- ii. Commercialization of politics can be addressed by implementing policies that reduce the financial burden of campaigning, such as state-funded campaigns or spending caps. Additionally strengthening institutional frameworks to support people's political engagement;
- iii. Need for the reforms that allows for independence of Electoral Commission in order to create legitimacy that elections are intended to generate and ensure stability in their aftermath;
- iv. Strengthening legal frameworks to protect women, youth and the elderly person from discrimination and abuse throughout the election progress. There is need for the local government to plan and implement community-based programs to enhance political engagement;
- v. The government should design targeted interventions to address health emergencies particularly amongst the elderly and women to enhance their participation. in healthcare settings will increase voter participation among older persons. Ensuring accessibility to the voting facilities and provision of transport to polling stations will easy their mobility to the voting location;
- vi. Engaging community-based organizations that focus on inter-generational approaches can also provide support and advocacy for the rights of elderly persons. The government and civil society should engage to collaborate in creating

- a safe and inclusive environment that encourages the active participation of all citizens, regardless of age and gender in the electoral process;
- vii. Electoral Commission should adopt technology to put faith and trust in the process. This is aimed at improving the efficiency, transparency and credibility of the electoral process;
 - viii. The Electoral Commission should review the role of security agencies on whose interest they serve given their command structure;
 - ix. The Council of Ministers should allocate funds for the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to enable it carry out its mandate as election observer as stipulated in Article 123 of Chapter 23 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community.

5.0 KEY FINDINGS, CHALLENGES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

In the Republic of Rwanda, the sub- committee interacted with stakeholders/ representatives from;

- i. Rwanda Electoral Commission;
- ii. Rwanda National Police;
- iii. Ministry of Interior;
- iv. Ministry of Justice;
- v. Ministry of EAC Affairs;
- vi. Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration;
- vii. National Identification Agency;
- viii. Rwanda Civil Society Platform;
- ix. Rwanda Elders Advisory Forum;
- x. Members of Rwanda Parliament;
- xi. Association of Rwanda Female Journalist;
- xii. Rwanda Journalists Association;
- xiii. Rwanda Broadcasting Agency;
- xiv. Rwanda Governance Board;
- xv. National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations;
- xvi. National Council of Persons with Disabilities;
- xvii. National Youth Council;
- xviii. National Women Council;
- xix. Rwanda National Students Associations;
- xx. National Commissions for Human Rights;

- xxi. Political Parties;
 - a. Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF);
 - b. Party for Progress and Concord (PPC);
 - c. Democratic Union of the Rwanda People (UDPR);
 - d. Social Democratic Party (PSD);
 - e. Centrist Democratic Party (PDC);
 - f. Prosperity and Solidarity Party (PSP);
 - g. Liberal Party (PL);
 - h. Rwanda Socialist Party (PSR);
 - i. Ideal Democratic Party (PDI);
 - j. Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR).

During the interaction of with the Chairperson of the Commission Hon. Oda Gasinzigwa. She informed the sub-committee that the Commission is independent and autonomous in nature and consists of 7 commissioners appointed by the President serving a term of 5 years renewable once. At the time of visit, the Commission was receiving credentials for the candidates aspiring for the various electoral position.

5. 1 Electoral Processes

1. The National Electoral Commission

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) is a permanent and independent constitutional election management body as enshrined in Article 140 of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda.

Article 3 of Organic Law n° 001/2019.OL of 29/07/2019 governing the conduct of elections as amended to-date mandates the National Electoral Commission to ensure the implementation of legal provisions governing the holding of elections, to provide relevant instructions as necessary to ensure the smooth conduct of elections, and to appoint election volunteers.

In terms of governance NEC has seven Commissioners who are appointed by the President based on merit and approved by parliament

Election Laws & Regulations

Among the fundamental principles that the state of Rwanda has committed to uphold as per Article 10 of the constitution are: **Equitable power-sharing**; and **building a State governed by the rule of law, a pluralistic democratic Government, equality of all Rwandans and between women and men which is affirmed by women occupying at least 30% of positions in decision-making organs.** This is evident

in the steady increase in women's representation in the lower House (Chamber of Deputies) throughout several legislative elections, from 48.8 percent (2003–2008), 56.4 percent (2008–2013) to 64 percent (2013–2018) and 61.3 percent in (2018-2023) that has been extended to 2024. In addition, various gender transformative legal and policy frameworks have been adopted to remove any provision perpetuating gender inequalities and guarantee equal political rights for women and men. The inclusiveness of this framework is not just a legal requirement.

The Organic Law n° 001/2019.OL of 29/07/2019 governing elections, provides for modalities of elections as follows:

- i. Direct elections (All eligible voters) for the President of the Republic and the 53 Deputies from political organizations and independent candidates; and
- ii. Indirect elections (Electoral College) for the 24 Women members, 2 Members representing the Youth and 1 Member representing persons with disability.

Presidential Order n° 077/01 of 11/12/2023 relating to elections of the President of the Republic and Deputies Provides for:

- i. The polling date;
- ii. The campaign period;
- iii. The electoral constituency of 24 female Deputies and the number of seats for each electoral constituency;
- iv. The electoral colleges for the 24 women deputies, the 2 youth Deputies and 1 deputy with disabilities;

The constituency for the 24 Women Deputies is Province and City of Kigali and seats are distributed in accordance with the number of populations of each province or City of Kigali as follows:

- i. Northern Province: four seats;
- ii. Southern Province: six seats;
- iii. Eastern Province: six seats;
- iv. Western Province: six seats; and
- v. City of Kigali: two seats.

Electoral college for the 24 Women Deputies includes:

- i. Members of the Executive Committee of National Women Council from Village level to national level;
- ii. Members of Councils of Districts of the Province, at provincial level or members of the Council of the City of Kigali, at level of the City of Kigali;

Electoral college for 2 Deputies representing the Youth.

- i. Executive Committee of the National Youth Council at the level of each District and at national level.
- Electoral College for 1 Deputy representing persons with disability.
- i. Members of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities from District to national level and the Coordinator of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities at each Sector level
- Regulations of the NEC n° 001/24 of 19/02/2024 governing Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2024.
- i. Modalities for registration and updating the voter register including manual and online.
 - ii. Provisions on submissions of candidature for Presidential and parliamentary Candidates;
 - iii. provisions on Presidential and Parliamentary election campaigns;
 - iv. Provision on media coverage of elections;
 - v. Provision for Public Broadcaster (RBA)'s provision of equitable and free access to its media platform by all Candidates during election Campaigns;
 - vi. provisions on the role and conduct of security Agencies during elections;
 - vii. provisions on the roles and conduct of volunteers at different levels

2. Electoral Preparation

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) undertakes and goes through systematic electoral processes in collaboration and partnership with different election stakeholders. These processes include:

- i. preparation and publication of election laws and regulation;
- ii. prepare the elections calendar;
- iii. prepare a detailed operation plans and strategies for smooth conduct of elections and for the purpose of mitigating foreseeable challenges.

The NEC also emphasizes on principles of inclusion and ownership of election processes by all election stakeholders. These include but are not limited to:

- i. Government Ministries and agencies whose mandates are linked to election processes;
- ii. Political organizations at individual level or through the National Consultative Forum of political organizations;
- iii. Non- government organizations including Civil Society Organizations and Faith, Best Organizations;

- iv. National Councils: Youth, Women and Persons with disabilities;
- v. Public and private media Houses;
- vi. Security organs (National Police)

The NEC goes through an elaborate process that include:

- i. Strategic and Annual planning that is aligned to the Country's term of office of elected Leaders;
- ii. Preparation of thorough and detailed election operation plans covering the entire election cycle in an election year;
- iii. Election stakeholders' engagement in evaluation of past elections with a view to making improvements in up-coming National elections;
- iv. Consultation with election stakeholders in the drafting of the National general elections electoral calendar and elections regulations;

Through Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with election stakeholders, prepare and deliver electoral civic education, training and information programmes to the population. This is done even in non- election years in preparation of the next electoral cycle;

Planning and working closely with the Rwanda National police in securing the entire electoral process.

Through the National Women's Council, the Ministry of Gender & Family Promotion builds on women leaders' engagement and play a vital role in sensitizing women and girls using their collective voice, leadership, and mentorship skills. The targeted women achievers are engaged in sharing their leadership experiences and lead national and local awareness campaigns. National gender machinery mobilizes, develop capacity for, and facilitate women candidates through mentorship, coaching, and inspirational talks by senior and experienced resource persons.

Elections Observation Mission is a vital component in the elections process. NEC always sends out invitation and carries out accreditation Internationally, Regionally and Nationally to election observers and for the International and Regional observers the immigration department facilitates their entry and exit into the country. This role is anchored on the provisions of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

The local government plays a critical role in mass mobilization to participate in and benefit from electoral processes. The National Gender Machinery works with the local Government to mobilize the population to equally participate in electoral processes and ensure gender-responsive campaigns and electoral sites.

Through the Broadcasting Agency all candidates are given equal coverage of airtime on the national broadcaster thus through TV and Radio.

The element of Dialogue and consensus is the political governing spirit during elections and through political parties and simple majority determines the winners.

The compliance with gender equality principles in governance processes as enshrined in the Constitution of as a requirement of gender representation, of at least at 30%, in all decision-making positions is upheld universally. This is evident with the more than two-thirds of its parliamentary seats and over 30 percent of cabinet positions occupied by women.

Youth voluntary initiative in the electoral and different political party process are promoted. This is mostly on a voluntary basis through the Youth Volunteers initiative. Since the last elections (2018), there has been more than two (2) million new youths registered who attained the age of 18 and are credible for voting. However apart from voting youth play a vital in civic education and electoral observer missions. Recruitment and training of election volunteers. NEC plans to use over 100,000 Volunteers as polling staff and election presiding officers during the upcoming Elections slotted for 15th July 2024;

The persons with disability are provided access to take part in the electoral process and preparation of the country's elections for example through the National Council of Persons with Disabilities work closely with NEC to provide access for persons with disabilities at polling posts, sign languages/interpreters during campaigns as well as braille materials for persons with visual impairment.

Major Components of the Election Calendar are as follows:

- i. Voter registration.
- ii. Accreditation of election observers.
- iii. Submission of candidatures.
- iv. Period for electoral campaigns that are 22days.
- v. Polling date and this also caters for the Diaspora population.
- vi. Publication of results.

Timely and comprehensive voter registration and voter register update. This is done every year regardless of whether there are national elections. This system is interlinked with the National Identification Agency;

Timely planning and acquisition of election logistics. Majority of these logistics are acquired locally like printing of ballot papers, polling booths, among others;

Funding of political Organizations is channeled through the Consultative Forum for Political Organizations that are registered in Rwanda. This grant is given to those programs considered by the forum as common to Political organizations. The government, in its budget provides for grants to Political organizations and independent candidates for their campaigns. This amount of money is equally distributed. The grant is only given to Political organizations and independent candidates that have obtained at least five per cent (5%) of the electoral votes. The Government provides for this grant in its annual budget.

5.2 CHALLENGES

Conducting national general elections comes with a number of challenges. The NEC like many other Election Management Bodies encounters the following challenges:

- i. National funding of electoral activities is not always as planned. financial gaps remain though do not hinder the general conduct of elections;
- ii. Voter registration and voter register update especially for first-time voter and Rwandan community abroad (Diaspora);
- iii. planning and acquisition of election logistics especially those sourced outside the country;
- iv. Some individual aspiring and nominated candidates sometimes fall short of adhering to the provisions of the law and regulations governing elections especially during election campaigns;
- v. The era of social media platforms and their use though positive in reaching many voters has challenges in self- regulation in electoral processes.

5.3 OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee made the following observations

- i. The Committee commends the coordinated efforts of the various government agencies and non-government agencies in Rwanda ensuring that NEC delivers and conduct free, fair and transparent elections that promotes democracy and good governance in the upcoming Presidential and Parliamentary Elections 2024;

- ii. During the oversight activity, the Committee established the limited days that the election campaign period for Political Organizations and independent candidates which is 22 days only;
- iii. According to the stakeholders, they are intentional to make Rwanda a model of best practices in democracy inclusiveness. This is where consensus generation and dialogue are used for decision making which brings about harmonious co-existence. The Committee commends the government of Rwanda for this deliberate effort;
- iv. The Mobilization Officer, National Women's Council, informed the Committee that the electoral processes in Rwanda are gender responsive. In addition, various gender transformative legal and policy frameworks have been adopted to remove any provision perpetuating gender inequalities and guarantee equal political rights for women and men. This is evident in adherence of the laws that have been enacted to foster gender equality. The Republic of Rwanda constitution does not only enshrine the principle of gender equality but also guarantees a minimum quota of 30% for women in decision-making organs;
- v. The Committee commends National Identification Agency (NIDA) for the coordinated efforts in ensuring the voters register is up to date by interfacing its systems with that of NEC. Such enhanced efforts will help in creating a secure and conducive environment that facilitates voting;
- vi. During the oversight activity, the Committee established about the voluntary initiative that is being promoted during the electoral process. The youth voluntarily present themselves to be part of electoral process where they are engaged in assisting NEC in various activities at the polling stations and any other assignments given to them. This initiative makes the youth to be accountable to their country.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend to the Assembly to:

- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds for that will cover the whole Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to be carrying out electoral observer missions during elections within the region;
- ii. Urge the Secretariat to prepare and present before the Assembly the reports from electoral observer missions;

- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to urge Partner States to invest in modern technologies and mostly to have national identification agencies link up election management bodies so as to have an easy voters register update;
- iv. Urge the Council of Minister to urge Partner States to have electoral processes that promote inclusiveness of the youth, Persons with disability and are gender sensitive.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Conducting National general elections is very tasking and challenging to an election management body that requires very elaborate electoral processes and implementable regulations as per the electoral cycle in place. The smooth conduct of elections mitigating and addressing challenges throughout the electoral processes requires professionalism, impartiality and integrity on the part of election managers that are core principles of the National electoral Commission elections management values. A successful, free, fair and transparent national general election process also calls for active participation, involvement and ownership of the entire elections process by all election stakeholders.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee of Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution wishes to thank the Rt. Hon. Speaker and the Office of the Clerk for facilitating it to carry out its oversight function. The Committee further appreciates the stakeholders for the information given to the Committee. The Committee hopes that the findings and the recommendations contained in this report will greatly improve on the challenges faced during elections in the Partner States.


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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024 THURSDAY	
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	A. SHIBUKO

Clerk's Chambers
EALA Headquarters
EAC Headquarters
Arusha – TANZANIA

June 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Article 49(2)(e) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community provides that the Assembly may for purposes of carrying out its functions, establish any committee or committees for such purposes as it deems necessary. The Committee on General Purpose is one of the six (6) Standing Committees of the Assembly that is specifically charged with mandate to among others, scrutinize and monitor the implementation of the East African Community budget.

The Assembly is empowered under Rule 74 of its Rules of Procedure to exercise control over the implementation of the Budget. Sub-rule 1 of 74 provides that "***the Assembly shall monitor the implementation of the budget of the Community through the Committee responsible for budgetary control and other relevant Committees***". Sub-rule 4 of 74 further provides that "***each year the Assembly shall consider, before the presentation of the budget for the following financial year, the problems involved in the implementation of the current budget, where appropriate on the basis of a motion for a resolution tabled by the relevant Committee***".

In line with the above, the Committee on General Purpose convened in Arusha, Tanzania on 17th – 22nd May 2024 to assess the implementation of the budget of the East African Community for the financial year 2023/24. The Committee received further information on the implementation of the budget during the consideration of the supplementary budget for 2023/24 in June 2024.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

At the commencement of this exercise, the Committee set out to review and analyze the following salient aspects of budget implementation:

- (i) The programs and projects of the Organs and Institutions in the approved budget for the FY 2023/24;
- (ii) The funds received from the Partner States and Development Partners from July 2023 to June 2024;
- (iii) The Memoranda of Understanding and Financing Agreements for programs funded by development partners;
- (iv) usage and implementation of the budget for the FY 2023/24 as approved by the Assembly;
- (v) other funds of the Community utilized during the FY 2023/24 including the EAC Peace facility and all contributions and disbursements from that fund.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

While undertaking the oversight activity, the Committee:

- i. Interfaced with the Heads of Organs and Institutions, and other officers responsible for the implementation of the budget
- ii. Made reference to the Treaty, the EAC Budget Act, the EALA Rules of Procedure, the EAC Financial Rules.
- iii. Prepared this report for consideration by the Assembly.

4.0 STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTNER STATES AS AT 22ND JUNE 2024

The Committee was informed by the Director Finance and the Heads of Organs, and Institutions that as at 22nd June 2024, the Partner States had made their contributions as indicated in the table below:

Table 1A. EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MAIN BUDGET (EAC Secretariat, EALA, EACJ, LVBC, EAKC, EASTCO, EAHRC, EACA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	9,430,352	7,352,124	5,566,310	76%	11,216,166
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	7,352,124	7,352,124	-	0%	14,704,248
3. Republic of Kenya	20	7,352,124	7,352,124	100%	20
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	7,352,124	6,431,255	87%	920,869
5. Republic of South Sudan	7,352,124	7,352,124	6,093,993	83%	8,610,255
6. United Republic of Tanzania	-	7,352,124	7,229,430	98%	122,694
7. Republic of Uganda	-	7,352,124	7,151,921	97%	200,203
Total	24,134,620	51,464,868	39,825,033	77%	35,774,455

Table 1B. INTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA (IUCEA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	5,974,103	644,219	278,076	43%	6,340,246
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	644,219	644,219		0%	1,288,438
3. Republic of Kenya	(1,900)	644,219	644,194	100%	(1,875)
4. Republic of Rwanda	3,395,224	644,219		0%	4,039,443
5. Republic of South Sudan	644,219	644,219	533,977	83%	754,461
6. United Republic of Tanzania	2,035	644,219		0%	646,254
7. Republic of Uganda	-	644,219	562,128	87%	82,091
Total	10,657,900	4,509,533	2,018,375	45%	13,149,058

Table 1C. LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION (LVFO), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	741,971	465,500	43,410	9%	1,164,061
2. Republic of Kenya	48	465,500	465,494	100%	54
3. United Republic of Tanzania	574	465,500	0	0%	466,074
4. Republic of Uganda	5,106	465,500	380,751	82%	89,856
Total	747,698	1,862,000	889,655	48%	1,720,045

Table 1D. CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY (CASSOA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	100,061	448,793		0%	548,854
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	-	448,793		0%	448,793
3. Republic of Kenya	-	448,793	448,793	100%	-
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	448,793	448,793	100%	-
5. Republic of South Sudan	448,793	448,793	371,993	83%	525,593
6. United Republic of Tanzania	-	448,793	448,793	100%	-
7. Republic of Uganda	0	448,793	448,793	100%	0
Total	548,854	3,141,551	2,167,165	69%	1,523,240

- i. From the tables above, it is evident that, save for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the rest of the Partner States registered remarkable disbursement of their financial contributions to the EAC Budget in financial year 2023/24. The Committee commends the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Uganda, Republic of South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania for either entirely or substantially honoring their financial contributions during the period under review.
- ii. The above notwithstanding, at the time of writing this report, some Partner States still owed the Community arrears for the FY 2022/23, and some outstanding contribution for the current financial year 2023/24.
- iii. Given the huge amount in arrears and outstanding contribution for the current financial year, some of the Organs and Institutions of the Community, especially those that entirely depend on Partner States contribution, delayed or failed to implement core programs relate to their mandate. These include the East African Court of Justice, EALA, EACA, and Kiswahili Commission.

5.0 CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET

The Committee was informed by the Heads of Organs and Institutions that during the implementation of the budget, they encountered the following key challenges:

1. Delayed approval of the budget for FY 2023/24. As you may recall, the budget was approved on 3rd October 2023 follow the return of the Appropriation Bill by the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the United Republic of Tanzania. As a result of this, Organs and institutions started budget implementation in October 2023.
2. Delays in disbursement of Partner States contributions to the EAC Budge resulted in delayed implementation of programs and projects.
3. There was reported low absorption rates in some Institutions like the East African Health Research Commission due to low staffing levels. There has been a delay to fill the vacant positions in most Organs and Institutions as well as project staff.
4. Underspensing on some programs and projects that are funded by development partners. This was attributed to the overlap in the budget cycles of the EAC and that of development partners.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. During the approval of the budget for 2023/24, the Assembly made some reallocations within Vote 001 - EAC Secretariat, Vote 002 - EALA and Vote 007 - East African Science and Technology Commission. The Committee found out that the responsible officers in the finance department of the EAC Secretariat did not enter these reallocations in the Budget Management System, save for one reallocation from the Planning Department to the Office of the Secretary General. The Committee takes exception to such actions that are aimed at undermining the mandate of the Assembly. Any expenditure without the approval of the Assembly is illegal since it violates Article 132(5) of the Treaty, and Sections 4(3) and (4) of the Budget Act.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly urges the Council of Ministers to take disciplinary action against the responsible officers who refused to enter in the Budget Management System the reallocations made by the Assembly during the approval of the EAC Budget for FY 2023/24.

2. Whereas all the other Heads of Organs appeared before the Committee during this exercise, officials from the EAC Secretariat deliberately refused to interface with the Members despite the invitations and reminders extended to them. In his brief interaction with the Committee, the Director Finance blatantly informed the Members that the Assembly has no right to access financial information relating to the

utilization of funds disbursed to the EAC Secretariat. This is absolute contempt of the Assembly.

3. The deliberate refusal to appear before the Assembly by the relevant officers of the EAC Secretariat may be construed as an effort to cover up the mismanagement of funds disbursed to this Organ during the financial under review. The Committee takes exception to the conduct of the concerned officers. Any person in the service of the Community is under obligation to provide accountability for the utilization of Community funds.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly urges the Council of Ministers to take disciplinary action against the responsible officers of the EAC Secretariat for undermining the work of the Assembly.

4. It was noted that in FY 2023/24, like in the previous years, the Assembly approved the budget for staff salaries and other benefits, yet all the Organs and institutions do have vacant positions in their structures. It was further noted that despite the existing vacant positions in the Organs and Institutions, the Secretariat continues to disburse funds for staff salaries and other benefits. These funds are often diverted to fund other programs in the Organs and institutions.
5. The Committee noted that during the period under review, the EAC Secretariat received Special Funds, including the EAC Peace Facility Fund amounting to USD 6,753,400 from some Partner States to support the peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Without prejudice to the ongoing investigation by the EALA Committee on Rules and Privileges, the Committee found out that this money was expended without the approval of the Assembly as per the requirements of Article 123(5) of the Treaty and the EAC Budget Act, 2009.
6. A review of the expenditure patterns per Cost Centre revealed that most of the Organs and Institutions spent substantial sums of money on travels within and outside the region to attend meetings whose outcomes were not even documented. Suffice to note that the outcome of most of these meetings has no correlation with the four pillars of integration.
7. Some of the Organs and Institutions secured funding from development partners during the period under consideration. However, the Committee was informed that some of the Memoranda of Understanding/Financing Agreements were signed without clearance by the Counsel to the Community. The Committee finds this very irregular.

8. A review of some of the MoU, and Financing Agreements/Grant Agreements revealed that most of the funds are used to pay consultancy fees, Daily Substance Allowance, tickets and hire of conference facilities during meetings. It was further noted that most of the donor funded projects do not have a component for oversight by the Assembly. In the circumstances, the Assembly may not be in a position to keep track of the projects and their impact on the Community. A thorough scrutiny of these projects is important to ensure that they are aligned to our development objectives.

The Committee recommends that, with effect from FY 2025/26, the Secretary General should ensure that all the Memoranda of Understanding and Financing Agreements for projects funded by development partners should have a component for oversight by the Assembly. Agreements without this component should not be cleared.

9. Section 8 of the Budget Act 2009, read together with Section 10 of the same Act place an obligation on the Secretary General to present to the Assembly Reports on grants and loans, and Reports on non-exemption of tax, at any time before the 30th day of June in each financial year. There is no record on the Hansard of the Assembly that shows that the Secretary General has ever complied with this statutory obligation. In the absence of such reports, the Assembly cannot ascertain the level of indebtedness of the Community or the impact of loans and grants on the integration process.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to direct the Secretary General to comply with the provisions of Section 8 and 10 of the Budget Act, 2009 and present to the Assembly Reports on grants and loans, and Reports on non-exemption of tax by 30th September 2024.

10. The Committee was informed that Assembly had an outstanding obligation of gratuity amounting to USD 1,375,000. The Committee expressed concern as to why the Clerk did not prioritize did not prioritize the payment of gratuity, which is a mandatory payroll deduction.
11. The Committee was also noted that, owing to liquidity challenges and outstanding obligations to service providers in FY 2023/24, the Assembly borrowed USD 2,034,975 from the General Reserve Fund.

The Committee recommends that the Secretary General should develop guidelines(Standard Operating Procedures) to streamline budget execution in all the Organs and Institutions of the Community. During budget implementation, priority should be given to statutory obligations like salaries

and the critical programs that relate to the core mandate the respective Organ/Institution.

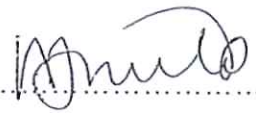
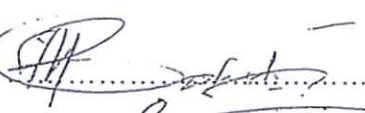
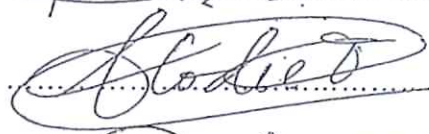

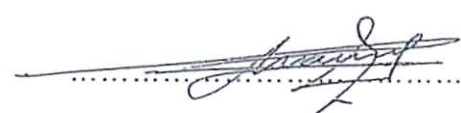
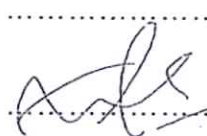

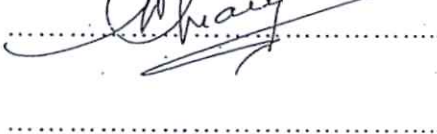
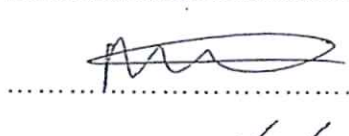

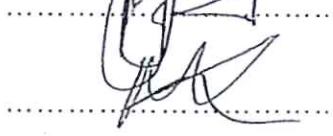


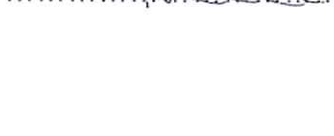


12. In the approved budget for 2023/24, there was a component of USD 1,055,297 from USAID to support the implementation of critical trans-boundary watersheds and ecosystems/landscape under Sustainable Land Management practices. However, the Committee was informed that the Commission did not receive any contribution because no Financing Agreements have been signed to-date. The Committee faults the Executive Secretary for misleading the Council and the Assembly to approve and appropriate this money well knowing that he had not concluded the requisite procedures.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly urges the Council of Ministers to always stay the approval of budgets for projects funded by development Partners whose Financing Agreements are not yet signed.

The Assembly cautions the Executive Secretary of LVBC against the practice of submitting to the Assembly budgets for projects without the signed Financing Agreements.

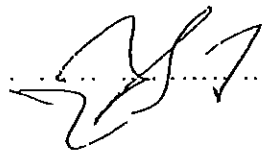
Rt. Hon. Speak, I beg to move that the House considers and adopts this report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

1. Hon. Kennedy Mukulia Ayason 
2. Hon. Aboubakar A. Kachwamba 
3. Hon. Alex Bahati 
4. Hon. Alodie Iradukunda 
5. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndangiza 
7. Hon. Dennis Namara 
8. Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame 
9. Hon. Dr. Saidi Kibeya 
10. Hon. Francois M. Ngate 
11. Hon. Gai Deng Nhial 
12. Hon. Godfrey Maina Mwangi 
13. Hon. Jeremie Maswama 
14. Hon. Kanini Kega 
15. Hon. Khalfan Ngole Mashaka 
16. Hon. Kim Gai 
17. Hon. Paul Mwasu Musamali 
18. Hon. Rose Akol Okullu

19. Hon. Stella Nyota Mwetaminwa

20. Hon. Victor Burikukiye



21. Hon. Winnie I. Odinga

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02/8/24

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY




COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE ONSPOT ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROJECTS AND PLANS BY THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION AND
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION

19TH -24TH FEBRUARY, 2024

KISUMU-KENYA
JINJA-UGANDA

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024	DAY: THURSDAY
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	A - Shibuko

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

March, 2024

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Acronyms

ACC – LVB	Adapting Climate Change – Lake Victoria Basin
ADC	Agriculture Development Cooperation
AF	Adaptation Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ATNR	Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources
BMU	Beach Management Unit
BMZ	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BR	Burundi
CCTWG	Climate Change Technical Working Group
COP28	28 th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EAC-LVBC	East African Community –Lake Victoria Basin Commission
EAFO	East African Fisheries Organization
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EDF11	European Development Fund
ENRM	Environmental and Natural Resources Management
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation for United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HPI	High Priority Investment
HQ	Headquarters
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICRISAT	International of Crop Research Institute for Semi- Arid and Tropics
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IWRM	Integrated water resource management
KE	Kenya
KFW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau

KIWASCO	Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
LVB	Lake Victoria Basin
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
LVFO	Lake Victorian Fisheries Organisation
MLVMCT	Multinational – Lake Victoria Marine time Communication and Transport
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Center
MWAUWASA	Mwanza Urban Water Supply & Sanitation
MZA-MRRCC	Maritime Safety, Communication & Transport
NaFIRRI	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (Uganda)
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NCCR	Nile Corporation for Climate Resilience
NEL	Nile Equatorial Lakes
NELSAP-CU	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program
NELSAP-CU	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program – Coordination Unit
<hr/>	
NILE – SEC	Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
PFA	Project and Funding Agreement
PREA	Programmes de Reformme E.en Afrique
R & D	Research and Development
RFBC	Responsible Fisheries Business Chains on Lake Victoria
RW	Rwanda
SAP	Strategy and Action Plan
SAR	Search and Rescue Centres
SEC	Security and Exchange Commission
SECOM	Sectoral council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin
TAFIRI	Tanzania Fisheries Institute
TZ	Tanzania
UG	Uganda
UK	United Kingdom
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
USD	United States Dollar
WQ	Water Quality
WQM	Water Quality Management

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 81 and Annex 5 (D) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, some of the functions of the Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) are to assess and evaluate activities of the Community, carryout relevant research and evaluate action programmes in its respective mandate.

The broad function of the Committee on ATNR hinge on Chapters eighteen, nineteen and twenty of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC). Chapter nineteen provides for Co-operation in Environment and Natural Resources Management. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and provisions of the Treaty, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) fall under the mandate of the Committee on ATNR. The Committee on ATNR therefore conducted an on spot assessment activity to assess the implementation of the ongoing projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ONSPOT ASSESSMENT

The objective of the activity was to assess the implementation of the ongoing projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience.

3. METHODOLOGY

In undertaking this activity, the Committee:

- i. Received presentations from the Management of the LVBC and LVFO;
- ii. Conducted interactive meetings with the management of the LVBC and LVFO;
- iii. Visited the construction site of the LVBC headquarters;
- iv. Visited the projects undertaken by LVBC; and
- v. Visited the National Fisheries Research Institute of Uganda (NaFIRRI).

4. THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission is a specialized institution of the EAC located in Kisumu, Republic of Kenya, within the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The establishment of LVBC is provided for under Article 114 (2) (b) (vi) of the Treaty. The operations of the Commission are governed by the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin 2003 and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Act, 2022.

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake with 68,870 km² surface area while its catchment area (basin) covers 180,950 km². It is the second largest freshwater body in the world. The EAC designated LVB as an area of high economic interest and regional economic growth zone to be developed jointly by the EAC Partner States. The LVBC is mandated to coordinate sustainable development and management of the LVB in the five Partner States that cover the basin.

4.1. PROJECTS UNDER THE LVBC

The operations of LVBC is based on projects undertakes in collaboration with other stakeholders. Although the mandate of the LVBC is within the LVB which cover five Partner States, some of the projects were designed to include all the EAC Partner States. The table below is a summary of projects undertaken by LVBC.

Table: Summary of Projects under the LVBC

Project	Focus	Estimated Cost	Development Partners	Coverage
LVB-IWRM	IWRM (Sanitation HPIs) (Mwanza Connections)	EURO 70 million	KfW & EU	BR, KE, RW, TZ, UG
MLVMCT	Maritime safety, Communication & Transport (MZA-MRCC)	USD 28 million	AfDB	KE, TZ, UG
LVBC HQs	Institutional capacity	USD3.5 million	Partner States	N/A
ACC-LVB	Climate Change adaptation	USD 5 million	Adaptation Fund	BR, KEN, RW, TZ, UG
Scale WAYS	Research in resilience of land and water resources	Euro 0.443 of 1.6 million	IIASA/ADC	BR, KEN, RW, TZ, UG
NCCR	Climate Resilience (LVBC-water quality policy & Institutional harmonization)	USD 0.75 of 30million	WB	NEL sub -basin countries (7 EAC Partner States)

Source: Presentation by LVBC before the Committee on ATNR

4.1.1. Lake Victoria Basin – Integrated Water Resources Management Project

The overall objective of the Lake Victoria Basin – Integrated Water Resources (LVB-IWRM) project is to improve water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the LVB via regional IWRM measures. The specific objectives include to strengthen long-term strategic and regional water resource management function of the LVBC Secretariat and reduce untreated effluents into the Lake Victoria through targeted infrastructure investments in liquid and solid wastewater management. Under this project, the following projects to reduce untreated effluents into the Lake Victoria are undertaken:

- i. Mwanza Sewer Network Upgrade Project (Mwanza HPI);
- ii. Kisumu Informal Settlement Sanitation Project (Kisumu HPI);
- iii. Sanitation Infrastructure in the South - East of Luzira Catchment Area (Kampala HPI); and
- iv. Kigali Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant Project (Kigali HPI).

Challenges encountered during the implementation of the project

- i. Delay in the implementation of the HPI in the Partner States mainly due to prolonged processes of signing of Project and Funding Agreements;
- ii. Exclusion of the Republic of Burundi in the second component of the Programme for implementation of HPIs;
- iii. Sustainability of the Programme results and maintaining existing cooperation ties with Development Partners requires a strong Water Resources Unit at LVBC.

Remedies

- i. Lessons learnt in the conclusion of the first two Project and Funding Agreements (Kigali and Mwanza) being applied for the case of Uganda;
- ii. Continuous dialogue with KfW and exploring diplomatic channels to engage the German Government (BMZ) in a view to implement a Nature-based Solution Project seems promising; and
- iii. Reviewing and strengthening the LVBC's delivery units.

4.1.2. The Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project

The Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project (MLVCT) aims at improving maritime transport, security and safety of navigation on Lake Victoria for improved Lake Transport (people, goods, and services), trade and tourism which are key ingredients of integration. Specifically, it will:

- i. Improve maritime communication network coverage and functionality;
- ii. Operationalize the regional MRCC and 2 sub-centres in Kampala and Kisumu;
- iii. Improve safety and security of shipping and prevention of marine pollution by ships in Lake Victoria;
- iv. Establish, equip and strengthen the emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) Centres;
- v. Strengthen weather forecast services around and on the lake and other value-added services;
- vi. Develop the East African Maritime Transport Strategy and Lake Victoria Development program;
- vii. Strengthen capacity of designated agencies in Partner States;
- viii. Support livelihood efforts of women groups around SARs within BMUs; and
- ix. Facilitate the implementation of Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 and its Regulations and Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria.

4.1.3. Construction of LVBC Headquarters

The proposed LVBC Headquarters is designed as an ultramodern office complex with two distinct wings. The project is fully funded by the Partner States. The LVBC procured the service of Tareef Enterprises Ltd, who was the contractor to build the Headquarters. The Commission received the initial funding of 1.35M USD in April 2019. A further USD 950,000 was received in June 2022 towards the second phase and the final amount of USD1.24m was received in January 2024. For the first phase, the site was handed over in December 2020, construction commenced in January 2021 until 31st August 2022. The Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development through the State Department of Public Works, Republic of Kenya appointed officers to offer technical expertise in finalizing and fast-tracking approval of designs for the construction and preparation of bill of quantities for the project. The team provides oversight supervision on the project.

Challenges Encountered the Construction Project

The construction project encountered problems when the contractor was building the walls to join the main structure which was constructed during the first phase. The contractor used uncaused rubble masonry for walling instead of machine cut masonry stones. This made the walls weak and shapeless with parts of the building affected as straight joints causing cracks. It was stated that this happened when the first Secretary of Works from the Department of Works who was supervising the project retired and a replacement was delayed.

As a consequence the poor work and other delays, the contract with Tareef Enterprises was terminated. The new tender was published on 23rd January 2023. JV China Jiangxi International was awarded the contract. The site was handed over on 25 July 2023. The second phase is expected to be completed by February 2025. On their part, the Government of Kenya deployed a dedicated team of 7 experts to

supervise the project including the clerk of works who is stationed at the construction site. The work completed up to 20th February 2024 is at 35%.

The Committee was informed further that the Secretary of Works reported the deliberate poor work done by Tareef Enterprises to the National Construction Authority and the company was deregistered. Also, the extra cost which will be incurred to rectify the poor work will be reimbursed by the Tariff Enterprises.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission reported other challenges which are affecting the construction project and include:

- i. Delays occasioned by un-foreseen excavation works;
- ii. Weather – rains slowed down the works;
- iii. The Covid 19 pandemic;
- iv. Limited initial funding which in turn down-sized the scope of the project;
- v. Cost of inflation likely to affect /alter the cost of the project.

4.1.4. Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin Project

The Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB) is a regional project implemented by LVBC in five Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda). The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change by building climate resilience. Implementation timeframe was 28th June 2018 to 31st August 2023. The Budget was US\$ 5 Million.

The project supported the concrete adaptation interventions through piloting ecosystem-based Adaptation, Water Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture adaptation technologies and practices in selected climate hotspots in the LVB.

Challenges faced the Implementation of the Project

- i. Wide geographical scope strained the lean project team with low budgetary allocation for project management functions;
- ii. Unforeseen bureaucratic delays (recruitment of staff of the Project Management Unit, signing of MoUs and procurement processes);
- iii. Emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- iv. Inflation and rising prices of goods and services; and
- v. Extreme weather events.

Lessons Learnt from the project

- i. It is fundamentally important to ensure that adaptation interventions are strongly linked to livelihoods of target communities;
- ii. There is a strong need for flexibility during selection design and implementation of adaptation technologies and practices for transboundary water catchment resources e.g. Lake Victoria Basin;
- iii. The capacity building and learning exchange between peer groups is very powerful in transforming mindsets, creating passion and promoting innovation especially, at the community level; and
- iv. The long-term sustainability of adaptation initiatives requires a long-term commitment and willingness of people to change behaviour.

Recommendations

- i. Successful implementation of ACC-LVB project interventions has demonstrated the viability of regional, national and community level interventions in enhancing climate change adaptation. It is therefore recommended that an upscaling programme that replicates piloted adaptation technologies in other LVB climate change hotspots are developed.
- ii. When designing future projects, it is important to ensure the availability of sufficient human and financial resources at regional, national, subnational and community levels in order to ensure effective project implementation in a vast geographical coverage such as LVB.
- iii. In future projects, piloting of adaptation technologies and practices should lead to transformative and actionable changes in practice and policy to ensure uptake of appropriate technologies that support long-term resilience building efforts in LVB.

4.1.5. The Scale WAYS Project

With support from the Austrian Development Agency, ScaleWAYS was funded to the tune of EUR 1.6 million (0.433 million for LVBC). Initially this was a 3 years research project (2019-2021), but it was extended to November 2022. The project was further extended for a period of 4 months with additional of Euros 20,000. The project was jointly implemented by IIASA, LVBC & ICRISAT. The goal of this project is to contribute through research to resilience of land and water resources, improved health of ecosystems and human wellbeing in LVB. This was in response to the following threats:

- i. rapid increase of population and economic growth;
- ii. degradation of environment and ecosystem; and
- iii. the impact of projected climate change.

Key Project Achievements

- i. The Project produced the following comprehensive and informative analytical reports and policy briefs:
 - a. Seasonality of livestock feed increases with climate change;
 - b. Sustainable intensification of rice production;
 - c. Scaling resilient intensified agriculture through agro ecology in East Africa;
 - d. Closing the livestock feed gap in the LVB through regional integration;
 - e. Policy interventions required to support scaling sustainable land and water management in the LVB - High-level recommendations; and
 - f. Concluded capacity strengthening initiatives and produced a corresponding synthesis paper summarizing what was supported and what is needed for sustainability.
- ii. Completed an Independent Terminal Evaluation of the Scale WAYS project as per directive of the Regional Policy Steering Committee. Report will be circulated to staff and Partner States after clearance by LVBC management;
- iii. Conducted project close-out activities including final project audit and IIASA mission to ensure orderly project closure; and
- iv. Prepared a proposal for a follow on project and submitted to Austrian Development Agency which is under consideration.

Challenges, lessons learnt & recommendations

- i. Research and Development initiatives can be expensive to run and there is need to embed applied research in ongoing projects;
- ii. General apathy towards research in the region. There is need to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of research to sustainable development;
- iii. Regional integration processes as well as activities of the Community should leverage on research to ensure that they are data and science-driven and therefore demand driven and responsive to the needs of the region; and
- iv. There is a need to promote and advocate for adequate funding for research. It plays an important role in development programing, planning, resource mobilization and prioritization.

4.1.6. THE NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project is a World Bank supported project of US \$ 30 Million grant to Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) as the recipient entity. The development objective of the project is to improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin. The project covers the Nile Basin countries and is implemented by NBI through its three centers namely Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU, EAC-LVBC and NBD. The duration of the project is five years with a closing date set to be 30th November 2025. The overall objective is to harmonize and strengthen the policies and institutions which govern water quality management in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) sub-basin countries, to enhance cooperative management of shared resources. The specific objectives are to review and prepare recommendations to harmonize existing water quality management policies in the NEL sub-basin and develop a Regional Water Quality Management Strategy and Action Plan. The completed activities include:

- i. Regional Inception Workshop held in January 2023;
- ii. Stakeholders analysis and stakeholders engagement plan report was completed in April 2023;
- iii. Situational assessment undertaken (July - August 2023), report validated;
- iv. Draft harmonized policy on water quality management submitted to LVBC on 31st October 2023. The report was validated by a regional workshop from 27th – 28th November 2023;
- v. Draft final water quality policy was presented to the Sectoral Council in February 2024. One Partner State requested for one month period for internal process.
- vi. External audit completed on 31st January 2024.

4.2. RESOURCE MOBILISATION INITIATIVES

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission has conducted resource mobilisation initiatives by:

- i. Hosting of the KfW mission in February 2024 for discussion on the next phase of support to IWRM Program in LVB.
- ii. Holding EAC- Germany negotiations and consultations.
- iii. Having discussions with IFAD to co-design a Climate Resilience Agricultural and Food Systems Investment Program for LVB.
- iv. In partnership with African Development Bank (AfDB), designed a preparatory funding program on Transboundary Climate Resilient Agricultural Water- Food Nexus. USD 800,000 committed by Korea Africa Economic Cooperation.

- v. Prepared a Funding Project Proposal on Water Supply and Sanitation Program for Pro-Poor Urban and Rural Areas in the LVB was designed and submitted to Africa Water Facility of AfDB. Project has been shortlisted for potential funding. LVBC targets to develop an investment program of over Euros 150 million.
- vi. Designed together with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) a joint project on implementing Transboundary Mara River Basin Integrated Watershed to be submitted to Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- vii. There are ongoing discussions with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to establish a long-term partnership in project design, preparation, resource mobilization and implementation. As of now, two Project Concept Notes have been drafted and shared with GGGI:
 - a. Climate Resilience through Enhanced Green Growth in LVB; and
 - b. Project preparatory funding for climate resilience ecosystem-based agriculture and fisheries value chain development project.
- viii. Together with LVFO, designed a PCN on ecosystem resilience and restoration of LVB and fisheries biodiversity conservation project. The PCN is being discussed with UNEP for potential GEF funding.
- ix. Another PCN on Climate Smart Agriculture Program to Build Food and Nutrition Security Resilience in six Partner States was designed and submitted to AfDB Climate Action Window. Proposed project budget is approximately USD 15 million.
- x. Initiated discussions with UNEP on Upscaling of Adapting to Climate Change Program. Project proposal is under development and targets to cover 5 LVB countries and is proposed to cover RSS and DRC as well. Project cost is estimated to be approximately USD 90;
- xi. Resulting from COP28 engagements, a project on Climate Resilience for Sustainable Maritime Transport Infrastructure in LVB has been designed and submitted to AfDB Climate Action Window. Proposed project budget is approximately USD 15 million.
- xii. Hosting a World Bank Mission on assessment of potential for a Lake Victoria Basin-Wide Integrated Programming (March 2024).
- xiii. Regional review workshop on LVBC Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy including its annexes (Donor/ Development Partners' Mapping Report and Partnership Guidelines) (Before end of June 2024).
- xiv. Regional review workshop on four key documents required for resource mobilization initiatives including application for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund accreditation- (Before end of June 2024).

The Committee noted that the financing of the LVBC projects is not sustainable as they rely on Development Partners. This affects the sustainability of projects when the financing from the Development Partners cease.

4.3. CHALLENGES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN

- i. Stresses within the lake – over-fishing, poor water quality, fluctuating water levels;
- ii. Stresses on littoral zones – construction and farming in shoreline, conversion of wetlands;
- iii. Stresses from basin – land degradation, deforestation, sediment loads;

- iv. Stresses from outside the basin – nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphate) transported into the basin by air;
- v. Climate change (floods and severe droughts);
- vi. Population explosion;
- vii. Untreated effluent discharge into the lake;
- viii. Oils and toxic chemical in informal car wash and motor vehicles;
- ix. Poor agriculture and land use practices;
- x. Plastics and other solid waste; and
- xi. Water hyacinth infestation.

4.4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF LVBC

The LVBC has achieved the following:

- i. Enactment of the LVBC Act 2022 which equates to legal identity of the Commission;
- ii. The MV Jumuiya which was docked for a decade is ready to start operations after being repaired;
- iii. Harmonized 10 policies/laws/standards & regulations to strengthen the regional enabling environment.
- iv. Built consensus and prepared over 22 instruments for collaborative management of environment, and natural resources in LVB.
- v. Community livelihood Improvement "empowering communities through alternative nature-based livelihood options.
- vi. Private Sector Adoption and Investments in Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production and Green Growth Agriculture Value Chain Development (*Over USD\$32Million Worth*)
- vii. Basin-wide Analytical Work and Specific Studies for informed Programming of Lake Victoria Basin and Decision Support. (*Over 30 Key Studies*)
- viii. Improving safety of navigation on Lake Victoria – unlocking it for lake transport, trade, tourism.
- ix. Improved Water Supply and Sanitation for over *1Million People* in the targeted 15 Secondary Towns in the basin.
- x. Undertaken part pollution control investments in key municipal wastewater pollution hotspots (Kisumu, Homabay, Bomet, Mwanza, Bukoba, Kampala, Jinja, Gitega).

4.5. EMERGING ISSUES

During the interactive meeting with the management of LVBC, the following issues were identified:

- i. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission projects and services are not visible to many stakeholders;
- ii. The Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007 is not fully implemented by the key stakeholders:
 - a. Partner States prefer their national laws to this Act;
 - b. Some required regulations are yet to be made.
- iii. Understaffing challenges facing the LVBC;
- iv. The LVBC is working to Improve safety of navigation and security in the lake by:
 - a. Enactment of the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007;
 - b. Production of navigation charts;

- c. Implementation of the Oil Spill and Toxic Chemicals Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria;
 - d. Installation of navigational aids on 37 sites on main and local routes on Lake Victoria (KE-10, TZ-15 and UG-12).
- v. Tackling the Water Hyacinth Menace: LVBC has previously controlled water hyacinth through mechanical removal and biological means but the science of water hyacinth needs more research to come up with proper solutions to address the problem.
- vi. Sanitation Improvements: LVBC has made greater steps in improving sanitation in the region. The following progress has been made so far:
 - a. 12 Sludge treatment plants (267m³/day) constructed;
 - b. 75 of the over 190 of the construction of public toilets target;
 - c. 12 Solid waste management systems constructed;
 - d. distribution of 29 tractors and trailers, 331 skips, 8 vacutugs and 16 exhausters;
 - e. Interventions on solid waste management; and
 - f. 3000 peers & facilitators were trained (about 50% women).
- vii. Water quality improvement: The Committee was informed that there is no readily available specific data on the water quality for Lake Victoria. Most projects implemented with the aim of improving the water quality are commonly considered "non-regret measures". The projects under the LVB IWRM Programme aim to reduce untreated effluent running straight into the LVB hence contributing to improvement of water quality. The water quality performance indicator used for those projects is the reduction of biological oxygen demand.

4.6. VISIT TO KISUMU WATER AND SANITATION COMPANY LTD

Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (KIWASCO) was founded in 2001 to provide adequate clean potable water and to collect, treat, and dispose sewerage (wastewater) within the jurisdiction of Kisumu City. In the 2019, the company expanded its mandate to incorporate sanitation and this included change of name from 'sewerage' to 'sanitation'. KIWASCO owns two sewerage treatment facilities, Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant, with a capacity of 8,000m³ per day and Nyalenda Oxidation Ponds with a capacity of 18,000 m³ per day. The Committee visited the Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant, which was supported by LVBC in construction of some of the sanitation plants.

The Committee visited the waste water treatment plant and held discussion with the management of the plant. The Committee was informed that although the plant has the capacity of 8,000m³ per day, the project is operating below its capacity because many people around Kisumu are not connected to the system. It is estimated that only 18 per cent of the city's residents are connected to the central sewerage system. Other customers use alternative options such as pit latrines and septic tanks, therefore, more effort should be put to ensure the fully utilisation of its capacity.

On the other hand, it was reported that the facility does not have the capacity to remove phosphorous and nitrogen or their compounds such as phosphates and nitrates. These elements and their compounds are the principal culprits in water pollution because they cause eutrophication, which causes algae growth and anoxia.

The Committee was informed that many people around the Lake Victoria do not have access to sanitation services. It is estimated that if the current level of pollution continues, it will reach a time when the lake will be completely polluted. The Committee concluded its tour by planting trees at the waste water treatment plant.

4.7. COURTESY CALL TO KISUMU COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Committee was received by the County Deputy Governor H.E. Dr. Mathew Ochieng Owili, who represented the County Governor H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang Nyong'o. In that meeting, the Committee interacted with the County Executive Committee Members. In the meeting, the County informed the Committee on the following development programs:

- i. The County is developing Kisumu to be a tourist destination and investment centre by promoting various attractions and building a new big conference centre in Kisumu;
- ii. The County is developing fishing landing sites with cooling facilities for storage of fish;
- iii. The County is developing fish caging and fish ponds to promote food security in the County and beyond;
- iv. The County enacted several laws including the Kisumu Climate Change Act, 2022 which enabled the formation of climate committees up to village levels;
- v. The County is working to move from water catchment to water tape in order to provide safe drinking water;
- vi. Kisumu is an entry to EAC; therefore, there is a need to revamp the use of Kisumu Port and other ports along the Lake Victoria;
- vii. Kisumu County is organising the Blue Economy Conference in which they are going to invite the Committee on ATNR to participate; and
- viii. Kisumu Airport has been expanded to be an international airport.

The Committee and the County Government of Kisumu agreed to work together to promote the integration agenda of the EAC.

4.8. OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LVBC

The Committee made the following observations concerning the LVBC:

- i. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission has put commendable efforts to mobilise resources and managed to attract Development Partners to finance projects undertaken by the Commission;
- ii. Over dependence on Development Partners to finance projects does not ensure the sustainability of the projects;
- iii. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission should be creative to initiate projects and programs for income generation to reduce the over dependence on Development Partners;
- iv. The problem of water hyacinth on the Lake Victoria which was previously controlled is reappearing;
- v. The Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant owned by KIWASCO does not have the capacity to remove phosphorous and nitrogen or their compounds such as phosphates and nitrates;
- vi. The construction of LVBC Headquarters has been delayed due to problems caused by the previous contractor which led to the termination of the contract and procurement of a new contractor;

- vii. The change of contractor and the rectification of the poor work done by the previous contractor will increase the cost of construction;
- viii. The weaknesses on the part of the Commission, the contractor and the consultant contributed to the poor workmanship of the building;
- ix. Unregulated human activities within the LVB is one of main causes of many problems facing the lake;
- x. The LVBC does not have a Water Quality Expert; and
- xi. There is a general apathy towards research in the EAC.

4.9. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON LVBC

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to:

- i. Appreciate the LVBC for securing financial support from Development Partners to finance various projects of the Commission;
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate more financial resources to LVBC to enable it to implement critical projects;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to absorb the projects which Development Partners stopped financing;
- iv. Urge the Council of Ministers to closely monitor the construction of LVBC headquarters and other construction projects in the Community;
- v. Urge the Council of Ministers to take necessary steps to ensure that the contractor who caused problems reimburse the additional costs which the LVBC will incur to rectify the problems caused;
- vi. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States, EAC Secretariat and Institutions of the EAC to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of research for sustainable development;
- vii. Urge the Council of Ministers to promote tourism and environmental friendly investment opportunities in the cities around Lake Victoria;
- viii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVBC and other organs and institutions of the EAC to increase the visibility of their activities;
- ix. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to put in place harmonised mechanisms to regulate human activities within the LVB;
- x. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the Government of Kenya to improve the capacity of the Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant to enable it remove phosphorus and nitrogen and their compounds;
- xi. Urge the Council of Ministers to make all the required regulations under the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007, to enable the fully implementation of the Act;
- xii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to implement the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007;
- xiii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVBC to prepare a comprehensive water quality monitoring framework with clear indicators and parameters;
- xiv. Urge the Council of Ministers to urgently recruit the Water Quality Expert for the LVBC; and
- xv. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to collaborate with LVBC in addressing the problem on water hyacinth.

5. THE LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation was established by the Convention for the Establishment of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organizations signed on 30th June, 1994 by three Contracting Parties (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). The LVFO is recognised by the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC as one of the surviving institutions of the

former EAC. The Convention was amended in 1998 and 2016 to enable other Partner States of the EAC to join LVFO and to expand the scope of the institution's operations to cover all water bodies of the Partner States. However, the Committee was informed that the continued use of the current name "LVFO" portrays that the institution is only for the Lake Victoria.

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation aimed at fostering cooperation among the Contracting Parties, harmonizing national measures for the sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the EAC water bodies and developing and adopting conservation and management measures. Its Program areas include Fisheries Management and Development, Aquaculture Management and Development, Fisheries Resources Monitoring and Research; and Fish Quality Assurance, Trade and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products.

5.1. Ongoing Projects for Food Security

- i. European Union (EU)-EAC True Fish Farming Story in the Lake Victoria basin (TRUE-FISH) under EDF 11 (€ 10.15M) (EAC-LVFO, FAO, WFC, Landell mills, Ireland);
- ii. Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the EA, SA and the IO Region – EEOFISH Programme (€ 2 million) (IOC, LVFO, LTA);
- iii. Collaboration with University of St. Andrews UK (£ 726,000) (LVFO, St. Andrews University, KMFRI, NaFIRRI, TAFIRI);
- iv. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Project 2 million USD (LVFO, KMFRI, TAFIRI, NaFIRRI);
- v. Responsible Fisheries Business Chains on Lake Victoria (RFBC) Project (€ 1.624M) (GIZ, LVFO, DiFR, CSOs). The LVFO Programme closed on 31st July 2023, whilst other collaborators are still concluding business.

5.2. Projects under Development

- i. Community Fisheries Management & Sustainable Fisheries Project (LVFO, FAO, University of Iceland & EAC Partner States);
- ii. Ecosystem Resilience and Restoration of Lake Victoria Basin and Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation Project (*Ziwa Letu* Project) > 10 million USD (LVFO, LVBC, UNEP, Regional Universities, MDAs, and Non-State Actors); and
- iii. Promoting climate change mitigation and food security in Lake Victoria fishery and aquaculture value chains (LVFO, FISH ASSOCIATIONS and AfDB – USD 12 million.

5.3. Contribution of Fish to Food Security and Economic Development

The Committee was informed that the EAC need approximately 4.2 million tonnes of fish annually to meet the global per capita consumption of 21 kg. It was noted that the annual production of fish in EAC is approximately 1.7million tonnes; 1.5 million tons from fish capture and 0.2 tonnes from fish farming. Fishing provides direct employment to 800,000 people and its contribution to GDP is 2-3%. The earnings from fish exports is approximately USD 300 million per year. Effective management of fisheries is critical to maintain these benefits and reduce the gap of 2.5 million tonnes of fish needed for the local consumption.

Aquaculture has the potential to make a significant contribution to food security and income generation. Thus, aquaculture is an important mechanism for improving local food security.

5.4. Policies, Guidelines and Strategies that Enhance Food Security and Climate Change Resilience in the EAC

- i. The East African Community Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018;
- ii. The East African Community Cage Fish Farming Policy;
- iii. Strategic plans – The EAC Development Strategies - Latest 2021-22 – 2025-26;
- iv. Fisheries Management Plans I, II, III, Latest IV (2021-2025); and
- v. Nile Perch Management plans I, II, Latest III (2021 – 2025).

5.5. Regionally Harmonized Guidelines, Protocols and Standard Operation Procedures

- i. Species Specific Licensing;
- ii. Co-management;
- iii. Management of Fish breeding Areas;
- iv. Cage fish farming;
- v. Fish handling and Trade;
- vi. Extraction, processing & trade in fish maws; and
- vii. Monitoring Control and surveillance.

5.6. Challenges Faced by LVFO

- i. Climate Change and variability and associated with global warming, lake level raise and flooding;
- ii. Illegal unreported unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- iii. Overcapacity in Lake Victoria fisheries;
- iv. Overfishing, capture of immature fish and trade disagreements and conflicts;
- v. Fishing technology conflicts;
- vi. Lack of unified fisheries monitoring control and surveillance;
- vii. Pollution including plastic pollution;
- viii. Sand mining affecting fish breeding areas.
- ix. Poor post-harvest handling.
- x. High prevalence of HIV rates in fishing communities;
- xi. Expanded mandate and scope vis a viz the staffing level of the LVFO;
- xii. Delay in disbursement of resources from Partner States and Development Partners;
- xiii. Delay in VAT recoveries from the Host Partner State and non-recovery from Non Hosting Partner States; and
- xiv. Emerging issues, climate change, water level, pollution of the fish habitat, fish pests and epidemics.

5.7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LVFO

- i. Fast track operationalization of expanded scope and mandate;
- ii. Change the name from LVFO to EAFO;
- iii. Increase Partner States budget support and fill staff gaps in fish quality directory and prioritise on fish quality activities;
- iv. Strengthen collaborations and partnerships to attract more resources to the organization;
- v. Work together to mitigate climate change particularly global warming;
- vi. Work towards effective community management regimes;

- vii. Support the organization in erecting another structure to accommodate projects and two additional directorates (aquaculture and fish quality assurance);
- viii. The East African Community should put in place mechanisms that will enable organs and institutions of the EAC to recover VAT from Partner States that does not host the particular organ or institution;
- ix. Urge Partner States to remit statutory contributions early in the FY for proper planning and execution of the mandate;
- x. Legislate a law through EALA for the harmonised regional fisheries enforcement; and
- xi. Promote clean-up projects in fishing communities.

5.8. VISIT TO THE NATIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) is one of the institution of the Republic of Uganda responsible for fish research. The Committee visited NaFIRRI and was received by the Executive Director. NaFIRRI informed the Committee that its mandate include guiding, conducting and coordinating fisheries research to inform sustainable development, policies, regulations, and management. The research focus mainly on capture fisheries, aquaculture, water environment, fisheries social economics, innovation and post-harvest management, information dissemination and communication as well as responding to emerging issues in the fisheries sector including climate change and variability.

In delivering on its mandate, the institute operates under four broad programs: i). Capture Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation, ii). Aquaculture and Biosciences, iii). Fish Habitats Management, and iv). Innovations and Post-harvest Management. NaFIRRI particularly participates in the regional research activities coordinated by LVFO and contributes to the different fisheries and aquaculture policies and decisions made by the EAC Council of Ministers.

After the presentations of NaFIRRI, Members of the Committee boarded one of NaFIRRI's research vessels (RV.HAMMERKOP) for the Lake Victoria tour. While on the vessel, Members were briefed on stock assessment research undertaken by NaFIRRI on the research vessels, these include bottom and pelagic trawling, hydro acoustics, and water quality monitoring. The data generated provides insights on the total stock biomass, species composition and distribution, relative abundances, population size structure, and forms the basis for guiding regulations on sustainable harvest levels and appropriate fishing gears, fishing grounds, and areas. Lastly, a demonstration on bottom trawl experimental fishing was conducted, lasting for a duration of about 30 minutes. The fish catch landed comprised mainly Nile perch and Haplochromine taxa.

5.9. OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LVFO

The Committee made the following observations with regards to the LVFO:

- i. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation needs to expand its offices by constructing an extension building to accommodate the increased number of staff and other needs as the mandate of the institution is being expanded;
- ii. Although the mandate of the LVFO was expanded to include all water bodies in the EAC, the continued use of the name Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization poses a challenge and makes it perceived as only responsible for the Lake Victoria;
- iii. There is delay in transforming the LVFO to enable it to undertake the mandate to operate in all water bodies of the EAC;
- iv. There is a need for a Community law to regulate fishing activities in the EAC. The same law should operationalised the expanded mandate of LVFO;
- v. The development of a legislation should ensure that LVFO remain an institution of the EAC while continuing to be a Regional Fisheries Management Organization recognized by FAO;
- vi. The delayed reimbursement of VAT from the hosting government and lack of mechanism for VAT refund for activities of organs and institutions of the EAC undertaken outside their headquarters is still a challenge; and
- vii. The East African Community produces only 1.7 million tonnes of fish contrary to estimated need of 4.5 million tonnes per year.

5.10 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LVFO

The Committee recommend to the Assembly to:

- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVFO and the relevant Sectoral Council to fast-track the process of expanding the mandate of LVFO and the change of its name to enable the institution to operate throughout the region;
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds for the delayed expansion of the LVFO headquarters in Jinja;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare and present before the Assembly the Bill for a law to operationalize the expanded mandate of the LVFO;
- iv. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct all Partner States to reimburse the VAT they collected from all organs and institutions of the Community;
- v. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare a regulation to enable organs and institutions of the EAC to claim refund of VAT and other taxes when they undertake activities outside their hosting Partner States;
- vi. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to invest more in fish farming to enable the EAC meet its expected demand of 4.5 million tonnes of fish per year; and
- vii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct LVFO and Partner States to continue investing in modern technologies.

6.0 CONCLUSION

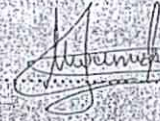
The on spot assessment activity to assess the implementation of projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience enabled the Committee to exercise its oversight activity on the two institutions. Despite the number of challenges facing the two institutions, generally LVBC and LVFO are doing commendable job. It is the responsibilities of the Partner States through the Council of Ministers to increase their commitment to enable these institutions to utilize all their potentials for the benefit of the EAC.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee acknowledges the facilitation granted to it by the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the Assembly. Also, the Committee appreciates the management and staff of the LVBC and LVFO for accepting to engage with the Committee during this activity. Their commitment and collaboration enable the Committee to accomplish this activity and fulfil its oversight role. Moreover, the Committee acknowledges the leadership of Kisumu County, management of KIWASCO and management of NaFFIRI for hosting the Committee. Their time and valuable information given to the Committee are highly appreciated.

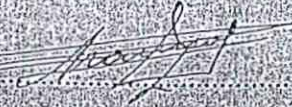
REPORT ON THE ONSPOT ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS AND PLANS BY THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION & LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION: 19TH – 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

1. Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza



2. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndingiza

3. Hon. Anastase Manirambona



4. Hon. Caroline Kayunga

C. Kayunga

5. Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame



6. Hon. Dr. Gabriel Garang A. Arol



7. Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi



8. Hon. Dr. Woda J. Odok



9. Hon. Evariste K. Kalala

10. Hon. Francois M. Ngate

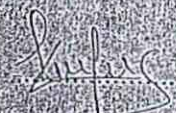
11. Hon. Gideon Gatpan



12. Hon. Godfrey Maina Mwangi



13. Hon. Goreth Bigirimana



14. Hon. Jacqueline Amongin

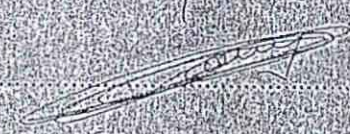
15. Hon. Machano Ali Machano



16. Hon. Mary Mugenyi



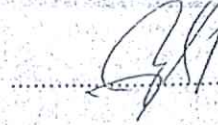
17. Hon. Stella Mwetaminwa Nyota



18. Hon. Veronica Kadogo Babirye



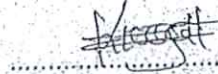
19. Hon. Victor Burikuikiye



20. Hon. Winnie Odinga



21. Hon. Zipporah Kering



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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAST
AFRICAN COMMUNITY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LTD	
DATE: 01 AUG 2024	
THURSDAY	
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	A-Shiburo

READSCoR	Regional East African Disease Surveillance, Control Response
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RFU	Regional Facilitation Unit
RTO	Regional Technical Organisations
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TSMs	Technical Support Missions
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
WTO	World Trade Organisation

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2023/2024

According to the Budget Speech by the Chair Council, and the Policy Statement by the Secretary General, during the year 2023/2024, the Community achieved the following:

- a. Strengthening of regional governance, political commitment, accountability, and inclusivity to improve peace and security in the build up to an EAC Political Confederation.
 - o The Federal Republic of Somalia deposited the instruments of accession to the East African Community.
 - b. Increased visibility, knowledge, awareness and participation of the Private Sector, citizens and other stakeholders in the EAC integration process.
 - c. Effective implementation of the EAC Customs Union and Common Market Protocols to increase EAC Intra- Trade and enhance freedoms and rights under the Common Market Protocol.
 - i) The Community harmonized 172 standards in accordance with the Standardisation Quality Assurance Metrology and Testing (SQMT) Act, 2006 and reviewed the Regional Standardisation Plan with specific consideration to national and regional priorities and the AfCFTA.
 - d. Improvement of productivity, value addition, promotion of regional supply chains, local content and domestication of regional commitments to improve socio-economic welfare of East Africans.
- e. Leveraging on new technologies to support the migration of production and service delivery to digital platforms and enhance e-business opportunities.**
- (i) The Community established an EAC E-commerce Engagement Platform (EEP) to strengthen collaboration and coordination in the e-commerce ecosystem; and
 - (ii) The EAC Secretariat mobilized USD 15 million from the World Bank for the implementation of the Eastern African Regional Digital Integration Project.
- f. Strengthening of the Global Health Agenda for the EAC Region**
- i) Developed and launched the digital version of the Zanzibar scorecard for tracking the progress of Reproductive, Maternal, New born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH).
 - ii) Trained 150 young researchers under the Young East African Research Scientists (YEARS) in research ecosystem skills.
- g. Implementation of the Road Map for the attainment of the EAC Monetary Union**
- i) Under ongoing implementation of the revised Roadmap for the East African Monetary Union, the EAC Monetary Policy Communication Strategy and the framework for monitoring the implementation of the EAMU Roadmap were developed; and

3.2 Strategies for mitigating the above challenges

The Community will implement the following strategies to mitigate the effects of the above challenges:-

- i) Adherence to the schedule of disbursement of contributions to the EAC Budget by Partner States as stipulated in the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations (2012);
- ii) Expedited implementation of the approved Financial Mechanism for the Community;
- iii) Expedited finalization and implementation of Institutional Review recommendations, especially filling of the vacant positions; and
- iv) Comprehensive review of the EAC Treaty to enhance its robustness, align it to the current realities in the eight Partner States and include an enforcement mechanism.

4.0 STATUS OF CONTRIBUTION BY PARTNER STATES

1. STATUS OF PARTNER STATES' CONTRIBUTION AS AT 22nd JUNE 2024

As at 22nd June 2024, the status of Partner States contribution is as follows:

Table 1A. EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MAIN BUDGET (EAC Secretariat, EALA, EACJ, LVBC, EAKC, EASTCO, EAHRC, EACA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	9,430,352	7,352,124	5,566,310	76%	11,216,166
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	7,352,124	7,352,124	-	0%	14,704,248
3. Republic of Kenya	20	7,352,124	7,352,124	100%	20
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	7,352,124	6,431,255	87%	920,869
5. Republic of South Sudan	7,352,124	7,352,124	6,093,993	83%	8,610,255
6. United Republic of Tanzania	-	7,352,124	7,229,430	98%	122,694
7. Republic of Uganda	-	7,352,124	7,151,921	97%	200,203
Total	24,134,620	51,464,868	39,825,033	77%	35,774,455

Table 1B. INTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA (IUCEA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	5,974,103	644,219	278,076	43%	6,340,246
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	644,219	644,219	-	0%	1,288,438

There is an urgent need for disbursement of the outstanding contribution for FY'2023/2024, as well as arrears, to facilitate the activities scheduled for this last month of the financial year ending on 30th June 2024.

4.1 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR THE FY 2023/2024

Mid-Year Budget Performance Review FY 2023/2024

The budget performance for EAC Organs and Institutions for the period from 1st July to 30th April 2024 is indicated in the table below:

Table 2: Budget performance for EAC Organs and Institutions for the period from 1st July 2023 to 30th April, 2024

Vote No	Organ/Inst'n Name	Funding Source	Approved Budget for the FY (July 2023 to June 2024)	Expenditure incurred (Oct 2023 to 30 April 2024)	Budget still available at 30th April 2024	Budget utilized in %	Overall performance to approved Budget	Justification for execution
01	EAC Secretariat	Partner States & Misc. Votes	19,596,177	12,781,387	6,814,790	65%	39%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	31,335,376	7,059,672	24,275,704	23%		(2)
			50,931,553	19,841,059	31,090,494			
02	East African Court of Justice	Partner States	4,450,488	2,818,838	1,731,650	62%	62%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	-	-	-	-		
			4,450,488	2,818,838	1,731,650			
03	East African Legislative Assembly	Partner States & Misc. Votes	18,258,256	14,099,385	4,276,121	76%	77%	(1)
		unappropriated budget	117,250					
		Dev. Partners	-	-	-	-		
			18,375,506	14,099,385	4,276,121			
04	Lake Victoria Basin Commission	Partner States	3,217,940	1,941,391	1,276,548	60%	45%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	5,254,040	1,854,163	3,399,876	35%		(2)
			8,471,980	3,795,556	4,676,424			
05	Inter-University Council for East Africa	Partner States	5,005,469	3,260,663	1,744,806	65%	53%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	7,389,476	3,318,820	4,070,656	45%		(2)
			12,394,945	6,579,483	5,815,462			
06	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	Partner States	1,977,016	1,024,872.30	952,143.70	52%	59%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	830,977	636,317.26	194,659.90	77%		(2)
			2,807,993	1,661,190	1,146,804			
07	East African Science and Technology Commission	Partner States	2,016,543	1,365,402	651,141	68%	68%	(1)
		Dev. Partners	-	-	-	-		
			2,016,543	1,365,402	651,141			

Table 4: Summary of the Proposed Financial Year 2024/2025 EAC-Budget in Comparison to FY2023/24

Organ/ Institution	PLANNED EXPENDITURE							
	FY 2023/2024					FY 2024/2025	Change	
	Partner States	Development Partners	Total	Partner States/ miscellaneous	Development Partners	Total	USD	%
Description								
EAC-Secretariat	19,596,177	31,335,376	50,931,553	21,724,276	29,952,844	51,677,120	745,567	1%
East African Court of Justice	4,450,488		4,450,488	4,858,553		4,858,553	408,065	9%
East African Legislative Assembly	17,681,365		17,681,365	20,469,040		20,469,040	2,787,675	16%
Lake Victoria Basin Commission	3,217,940	5,254,040	8,471,980	3,377,246	4,410,273	7,787,519	-684,461	-8%
East African Science & Technology Commission	2,016,543		2,016,543	2,177,192		2,177,192	160,649	8%
East Africa Kiswahili Commission	1,502,535		1,502,535	1,641,445		1,641,445	138,910	9%
East Africa Health Research Commission	2,193,811		2,193,811	2,423,518	27,638	2,451,156	257,345	12%
East African Competition Authority (EACA)	1,391,667		1,391,667	1,525,212		1,525,212	133,545	10%
The Inter University Council for EA	5,005,469	7,389,476	12,394,945	8,910,752	8,376,866	17,287,618	4,892,673	39%
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	1,977,016	830,977	2,807,993	1,940,916	1,168,670	3,109,586	301,593	11%
Total	59,033,010	44,809,870	103,842,880	67,785,519	43,936,292	112,984,442	7,878,931	8%

Table 5: Summary of the Proposed Revenues Financial Year 2024/2025 EAC-Budget in Comparison to FY 2023/24

SOURCE OF REVENUE	EXPECTED REVENUE							
	FY 2023/2024			FY 2024/2025			CHANGE	
	Partner States	Development Partners	Total	Partner States	Development Partners	Total	USD	%
Description								
Ministries for EAC Affairs	51,464,865		51,464,865	56,061,976		56,061,976	4,597,111	9%
Ministries Responsible for Education	4,509,524		4,509,524	4,900,401		4,900,401	390,877	9%
Ministries Responsible for Fisheries	1,862,196		1,862,196	1,862,196		1,862,196	0	0%
Member Universities	495,945		495,945	506,680		506,680	10,735	2%

- ii) Enhancement of intra-regional trade and investment through an enabling business environment;
- iii) Establishment of the requisite institutions and acceleration of harmonization of fiscal and monetary policies towards attaining prerequisites for the East African Monetary Union;
- iv) Development of multi-sectoral infrastructure to improve connectivity in the region's transport and ICT to facilitate timely services;
- v) Enhancement of the social and productive sectors to increase productivity and raise the standards of living for East Africans; and
- vi) Enhancement of capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfill their mandates and raise awareness of the EAC integration process.

5.2 Budget allocation to the EAC Global Priorities for FY 2024/2025

The proposed budget for the FY 2024/2025 is allocated to the EAC Global priorities adopted by the Council as follows:

Global Priority	Budget Estimates (in USD)
Strengthening regional peace, security, political and governance mechanisms to maintain stability in the Community.	5,100,533
Enhancing intra-regional trade and investment through an enabling business environment	4,729,841
Establishing requisite institutions and accelerating harmonization of fiscal and monetary policies towards attaining prerequisites for the East African Monetary Union	10,428,665
Develop a multi-sectoral infrastructure to improve connectivity in the region's transport and ICT, to facilitate timely services.	6,167,238
Enhancing the social and productive sectors to increase productivity and raise the standards of living for East Africans.	20,265,752
Enhancing capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfill their mandates and raise awareness on the EAC integration process.	66,292,414
Total	112,984,442

The above table summarises the budget estimates allocated to the global priority areas aimed at advancing the East African Community's goals and objectives. In total, the budget estimates allocated to the six global priority areas amount to USD112,984,442. This allocation reflects the importance placed on various aspects such as peace and security, economic and social

6.3 EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE (EACJ)

The Organ requests the approval of USD 4,858,553 for FY 2024/2025 to implement among others, the following key programmes/activities:

- i. To hold sessions of the Appellate Division of the EACJ to adjudicate on matters filed before the Court by Partner States, EAC citizens, Institutions and Staff of the Community.
- ii. To hold sessions of the First Instance Division of the EACJ to adjudicate on matters filed before the Court by Partner States, Institutions and Staff of the Community.
- iii. To represent EACJ in key events within Partner States aimed at deepening integration.
- iv. To facilitate Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) Annual Conference on the role of Regional Courts in upholding the rule of law, engendering public confidence and dispensing justice.
- v. To present on topical issues in East African Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA) annual conference on "One Court mixed systems: the East African Court of Justice as a Court that encompasses the Common Law and Civil Law systems.
- vi. To attend all the budget related meetings including F & A meetings and EAC Planning Committee meetings.
- vii. To represent the Court in the Annual Report writing Committee Meeting on annual activities.
- viii. To facilitate ten (10) court clerks to attend staff exchange programmes at EACJ and its sub-registries.
- ix. To attend statutory meetings of the EAC Audit and Risk Committee to respond to findings on the EACJ.
- x. To participate in the International Regional and National exhibitions and knowledge forum.
- xi. To establish Court sub registry in the Democratic Republic of Congo to facilitate access to Court by EAC citizens.
- xii. Formulation of EACJ Strategic Plan for the period 2024/4 – 2028/9.

6.4 LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION (LVBC)

The Commission requests the approval of USD 7,787,519 for FY 2024/2025 to implement the following key programmes/activities. The Budget FY 2024/2025 was prepared in line with the global priority areas approved by the Council of Ministers and informed by the LVBC 4th LVBC Strategic Plan (2021-2026), Decisions and Directives of the LVBC Sectoral Council of Ministers and recommendations of the LVBC management meetings. In view of the foregoing, during the FY 2024/2025, the LVBC will focus on the following key priority programs:

- i. Enhancing Maritime Communication network coverage on Lake Victoria to improve SAR services and trade;
- ii. Developing one Search and Rescue framework on Lake Victoria to reduce accident and rescue lead-time ;
- iii. Support the preparation and implementation of Integrated water resources management investments (including water supply and sanitation)

- xiv. Facilitation of business incubation and acceleration including linkages with private sector and investors.
- xv. Engagement with other potential funders/development partners for Resource mobilisation and sustainability of EASTRIP.
- xvi. Advocacy and branding of EASTRIP project activities.
- xvii. Conduct quarterly engagements meeting with Development Partners to support new initiatives within IUCEA Strategic plan.

6.6 LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (LVFO)

The Organisation requests the approval of USD3,109,586 to implement among others, the following key activities/programmes in FY 2024/2025:

- i. Convene a workshop of key stakeholders in Fisheries and aquaculture to prepare robust proposals for Research and development;
- ii. Upgrade the Data Centre software suite (Adobe software bundles, Navicat Premium Software, Team Viewer, Microsoft Visual Studio);
- iii. Finalize and rollout e-Fisher application in Lake Victoria basin;
- iv. Undertake sensitization mission to fishing communities to enlighten them on emerging issues;
- v. Conduct one regional enforcement operation on Lake Victoria;
- vi. Conduct sensitization meetings for fisheries stakeholders in the Lake Victoria region through multi-stakeholder meetings;
- vii. Mark and protect 3 critical fish breeding and nursery areas in each of the Lake Victoria riparian Partner State;
- viii. Convene workshop for capacity building of beneficiaries in solar technologies;
- ix. Train women and youth associations in developing innovative small fish products for enhanced market penetration;
- x. Conduct short training to technical staff from Republic of Burundi on analysis of basic fisheries and limnological parameters to enhance their capacity;
- xi. Conduct hydroacoustic survey to estimate the amount of fish in the Lake Victoria to guide sustainable management of its fisheries;
- xii. Conduct a study on the role of gender in small fish value chains, from catching to processing and marketing, and identify opportunities for women's economic empowerment;
- xiii. Conduct a study to provide the empirical data for testing the potential of a price subsidy intervention as a policy for the management of the dagaa fishery in Lake Victoria;
- xiv. Conduct fieldwork to provide empirical data to construct the perceived consequences, conservation, and adaptation to Nile perch stock tipping points across stakeholders in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, using a Mental Model approach;
- xv. Conduct study on baited hook fishery to determine hook selectivity in relation to bait types and sizes;
- xvi. Conduct study to provide empirical data to test the desirability and willingness to pay for cultivated bait among longline fishers in Lake Victoria;

- xx. Participate in Regional and International STI events to foster partnerships and collaborations.

6.8 EAST AFRICA KISWAHILI COMMISSION (EAKC)

The Commission requests the approval of USD 1,641,445 to fund the implementation of the following programmes/activities in FY 2024/2025:

- i. Participation in stakeholders' meetings in media, Academia, Culture and languages;
- ii. To coordinate and represent EAKC in high-level international meetings.
- iii. To coordinate annual visits to Ministries responsible for Culture/ Kiswahili in all Partner States to assess the status of implementation of activities for the development and use of Kiswahili;
- iv. To undertake Resource mobilization to raise support from Development Partners to enhance sustainability of EAKC activities;
- v. Capacity building for key Kiswahili Stakeholders on the mandate and progress made by EAKC towards development and popularization of Kiswahili in (EAC);
- vi. Hold the 2nd EAKC International Kiswahili Conference;
- vii. Hold a meeting of experts to review articles/manuscripts for publication in a special issue of Kiswahili Journal;
- viii. Hold a national meeting of DRC Kiswahili stakeholders for awareness creation and onboarding of DRC onto EAKC programs and Activities;
- ix. Hold the 3rd EAC World Kiswahili Language Day Celebrations;
- x. Implementation of the Mobility Program for Kiswahili Stakeholders for capacity building and creation of awareness in all Partner States for enhanced Kiswahili language usage;
- xi. Recruitment of key staff for the commission.

6.9 EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION (EAHRC)

The Commission requests the approval of USD 2,451,157 for the implementation of among others, the following programmes/activities in FY 2024/2025:

- i. Publishing the health research findings of the region through the EAHRC journals,
- ii. resource mobilization to implement the health programs of the Digital Regional East African Community Health (REACH) initiative.
- iii. Get the architectural design and bill of quantities for the construction of the EAHRC permanent headquarters, and secure the EAHRC Permanent HQ Land by erecting a boundary wall.
- iv. Operationalization of the EAHRC in the Federal Republic of Somalia.
- v. To initiate implementation of the establishment of Telemedicine in the Centers of Excellence.
- vi. To develop digital health programmes to train health professionals from EAC partner states by June 2025
- vii. To continue building the capacity of the Young East African Research Scientists 2nd cohort to build their capacity in mentorship and research ecosystem skills
- viii. To train the national ethics review bodies to enhance their capacity in reviewing research proposals in line with developed programmes

- iv. The cost of most of the planned programs/activities is on DSAs, tickets, hire of conference facilities and ushers.
 - v. Some Organs and Institutions deliberately split their programs into micro activities for the officers to earn DSAs, yet these activities will not have any impact on our integration process. These institutions/departments include EASTECO, LVFO, and the Virtual Office of Polical Federation.
4. Arising from the above, and in line with Article 132(5) of the Treaty, and Section 4(3) and Section 5 of the EAC Budget Act 2009, the Committee, in consultation with the Heads of Organs and Institutions made some reallocations and reprioritisation of some programs and projects within some Organs and Institutions as indicated in Annex1 of this report.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to approve the reallocations and reprioritised programs and projects as provided in Annex 1, and accordingly appropriate funds for their implementation.

5. During the consideration of the EAC Supplementary budget for 2023/24, the Assembly deferred the appropriation of USD 1,441,400 for a number of programs and projects under the EAC Secretariat which could not be implemented in the course of the financial year due to time constraints (Annex 2). The Assembly agreed with the Council that the funds for these programs and projects be included in the budget for financial year 2024/25.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly appropriates an additional sum of USD 1,441,400 to Vote 001 -EAC Secretariat to cater for the implementation of programs and projects indicated in the corrigendum, and in Annex 2.

6. Page 10 of the Secretary General's Policy Statement highlights the allocation of the EAC Budget in 2024/25 along the six global priority areas whereby USD 66,292,413 is allocated for enhancing capabilities of all the EAC Organs and institutions to fulfil their mandates and raise awareness on the EAC integration process. However, the Committee noted that the Council did not approve EALA's request for USD 810,000 for public outreach and sensitisation which is a core mandate of the Assembly.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly urges the Council to approve EALA's request for USD 810,000 for public outreach and sensitisation to enhance the visibility of the Community. This funding should be accommodated in the supplementary budget for FY 2024/25.

7. Whereas the Assembly has severally urged the Council to approve the appointment and remuneration of Aides to Members with disabilities, this request has been ignored. The late Hon. Kasamba Mathias (Uganda) and Hon. Bahati Alex (Rwanda) were elected to the 4th Assembly (2017 -2022). In the same vein Hon. Alex Bahati (Rwanda) and Hon. David Ole Sankok (Kenya) were elected to the 5th Assembly (2022 – 2027) on the PWDs ticket. The Treaty, the UN Conventions, African Charters and other labour laws recognise the rights of PWDs, besides warranting affirmative action to PWDs. In 2008, the Council appointed an Aide to Hon. Dr. Ndahiro – a Member of EALA then.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to always provide funds to the Assembly in time for the consideration of the supplementary budgets.

12. During the 3rd Plenary Session of the Assembly held in March 2024, the Council Supplementary budget to reconsider Council Bills returned the following Bills for reconsideration: The East African Community Statistics Bureau Bill; The East African Community Financial Service Bill; and The East African Community Surveillance Compliance and Enforcement Bill. However, no funds have been provided for the consideration of these Bills.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to provide USD 376,000 in a supplementary in FY 2024/25 to enable the assembly process the aforementioned Bills.

13. It was noted that the Assembly convened the ongoing 4th Plenary from 23rd June 2024 for nine days, yet the Assembly made a request of USD 753,600 this sitting to the Council, but was not approved. Instead, EALA and the Secretariat were requested to effect internal reallocations within their respective budgets to cater for only 9 Plenary days. However, there were no budget lines from which these funds could be reallocated.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to provide USD 574,000 in a supplementary in FY 2024/25 to enable the defray the expenses for the 4th Session held in June 2024.

14. It was noted that in February 2021, the Summit of the EAC Heads of State approved Kiswahili and French as additional official languages of the Community. In November 2023, the Summit also approved a model for the sustainable financing mechanism of the Community. On both occasions, the Summit directed the Council to expedite the operationalisation of these decisions. The Committee noted that there has been minimal progress in the amendment of the Treaty.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly urges the Council of Ministers to prioritise and expedite the process of amending the Treaty to give effect to the above Summit decisions and directives in FY 2024/25.

15. It was noted that the Office of the Counsel to the Community has not been able to process a number of Bills due to underfunding. This Office requires a sum of USD 112,500 to process six Bills in financial year 2024/25. The inability by the Office of the CTC to process Bills due to underfunding, negatively impacts on the legislative mandate of the Assembly.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to provide a sum of USD 112,500 to the Office of the CTC through a supplementary budget in FY 2024/25.

Vote	Organ/Institution of EAC	Amount in USD
001	EAC – Secretariat	53,118,520
002	East African Court of Justice	4,858,553
003	East African Legislative Assembly	20,469,040
004	Lake Victoria Basin Commission	7,787,519
005	Inter-University Council for East Africa	17,287,618
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation	3,109,856
007	East African Science and Technology Commission	2,177,192
008	East African Kiswahili Commission	1,641,445
009	East African Health Research Commission	2,451,157
010	East African Competition Authority	1,525,212
	Total	114,425,842

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to report.

ANNEX 1: SCHEDULE FOR REALLOCATION AND REPRIORITISATION OF PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

VOTE 001: EAC SECRETARIAT

SN	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	REALLOCATED FROM	AMOUNT IN USD	JUSTIFICATION	REALLOCATED TO
1.	Annual regular maintenance of ICT infrastructure, systems and computer accessories	Cost Centre 0120108 Information and communication technology	Amount in the budget 44,864 Amount to be reallocated 10,000	The amount is exaggerated	Library and Documentation To undertake capacity building on the newly installed information management system
2.	To conduct Joint-Sectoral Committee meetings on Defense Inter-State Security and Foreign Policy Coordination Page 544 of MTEF).	Cost Centre: 0150104 Police Liaison	Amount in the budget: 20,100 Amount to be reallocated: 20,100	The responsibility for convening the above meetings should be realigned back to the Department of Peace and Security because it falls within their mandate. In contrast, the Police Liaison function, established in 2017, primarily coordinates cooperation between EAC police chiefs and INTERPOL.	EAC Secretariat (Cost Centre 0150103) Peace and Security To conduct Joint-Sectoral Committee meetings on Defense Inter-State Security and Foreign Policy Coordination.
3.	Convene a Sectoral Council on Inter State Security	Cost Centre: 0150104 Police Liaison	Amount in the budget: \$11,500 Amount to be reallocated: \$ 11,500	The responsibility for convening the above meetings should be realigned back to the Department of Peace and Security because it falls within their mandate. In contrast, the	(Cost Centre 0150103) Peace and Security To conduct Sectoral Council on Inter-State Security.

VOTE 002: EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

6.	EACJ	To attend the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Annual conference USD 35,300(PAGE 662)	Amount in the budget USD 35,300 Amount to be reallocated 1750 900	There is a difference in DSA for the judges and the staff	East African Court of Justice A sum of USD 45,450 be reallocated to provide additional resources to convene EACJ Court sessions to clear the case backlog
		To facilitate the 10 Court Clerks to attend staff exchange programs at the EACJ and its sub-registries. (Page 670)	Amount in the budget: 17,300 Amount to be reallocated: 17,300	Funds for this activity were allocated in the FY 2023/24	
		To pay office supplies (hospitality, bank charges, stationery) Page 672	Amount in the budget 96,000 Amount to be reallocated 18,000	The budget for Refreshments is exaggerated. There is need to rationalize it.	

		To facilitate the Speaker to attend plenary and Committee sessions in Partner States (page 723)	Amount in the budget 32,400 Amount to be reallocated 16,200	Two sessions will be held in Arusha and the Speaker is not paid DSA while in Arusha	reports as per the Treaty Provisions. Note: The budget had a provision for only 5 days for the consideration of the reports yet the standard duration for all Committee activities is 6 days.
7.		<i>Cost Center: Office of the Clerk</i>	Amount in the budget 3,600	The Clerk usually accompanies the Speaker in these meetings which are already provided for under the Office of the Speaker.	
		To facilitate Clerk/representative to attend Pan Africa Parliament and REC meetings (page 803)	Amount to be reallocated 3,600		
		To facilitate EALA to attend the parliamentary research officers' annual conferences and symposium	Amount in the budget 7,800 Amount to be reallocated 7,800		
		To facilitate the Speaker and Chamber Staff with official attire and robes pg. 817	Amount in budget 24,196 Amount to be reallocated 14,000	A similar item was budgeted for last FY and the attire was procured	

15. Finalise development of the strategy on integration of Gender & women Participation / involvement in Peace and security.	29,787
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VOTE 007: EASTECO – SOME REVISED BUDGET LINES AFTER REPRIORITISATION IN FY 2024/25

Activity	Re-allocated Budget (USD)
1. Develop EAC Regional Commercialization strategy to strengthen the commercialization of STI products and services.	20,040
2. Develop EAC Regional Geospatial (Space) Information Management Network (EAGIN) framework to strengthen the coherence and coordination of Geospatial Information Management across the EAC Region	20,780
3. Develop EAC Regional biotechnology and biosafety Strategy	19,900
4. Conduct one online training on entrepreneurship skills development for graduate and post-graduate students and faculty to enhance creativity and job creation.	7,000
5. Conduct online training on scientific and grant proposal writing for scientists and faculty to enhance knowledge and skills.	7,000
6. Publish issues of the East African Journal of science technology and Innovation to enhance the dissemination of STI products and services.	49,760
7. Develop and maintain a database for indigenous knowledge and technology systems for increased access and utilization.	49,625
8. Convene EAC Regional eHealth and telemedicine conference to enhance knowledge dissemination, Networking, and collaboration.	82,000

			Amount in the budget 7,200 Amount to be reallocated 7,200 DSA or 1/4DSA- Staff (Executive Staff) Amount in the budget 11,200 Amount to be reallocated 11,200 DSA or 1/4DSA- Staff (Professional Staff) Amount in the budget 9,450 Amount to be reallocated 9,450		DSA or 1/4DSA- Delegates (DSA Full Delegates & Consultants)
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Vote 001: EAC SECRETARIAT (Virtual Office of Political Federation) - SOME REVISED BUDGET LINES AFTER REPRIORITISATION IN FY 2024/25

Activity	Re-allocated Budget (USD)
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9. Convene Youth Innovation Forum to enhance scientific and technological solutions for societal needs.	82,000
10. Convene quarterly working sessions of Research and Development sub-committees to enhance resource mobilization, grant management and science communication.	29,898
11. Establish an Information and Communication Technology development working group to enhance coordination.	30,000
12. Fund multi-disciplinary and collaborative Science, innovation, and technology projects for increased knowledge and innovation development.	40,000
13. Identify and support the development and applications of Artificial intelligence for real-time monitoring and control of manufacturing processes.	40,025
14. Identify and support the development and applications of the Internet of Things (IoT) in eHealth and telemedicine for enhanced delivery of healthcare services.	29,975
15. Support the development of remote sensing applications in climate information dissemination to farmers for evidence-based decision-making in farm operations.	30,743
16. Development of STI Indicators data support system to enhance continuous data generation and updates for strategic decisions.	20,310
17. Establish and operationalize coordination unit for RTOs, academia, industry and the private sector to support export-oriented industrial development and trade.	23,610
18. Convene Donor roundtable meeting to showcase EASTECO projects and programs for support by development partners.	20,050

Activity		Amount (USD)
1	To Improve socio-economic benefits from fisheries through value addition and product development	12,600
2	To conduct hydroacoustic survey to estimate the amount of fish in the Lake Victoria to guide sustainable management of its fisheries	130,560
3	To compile and disseminate four (4) Sectoral datasets on sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture on a quarterly basis.	26,000
4	To generate regional database on medium and large-scale aquaculture operators in the EAC	56,100
5	To develop and maintain database for the e-Aqua app, including sensitization on the use of the App	32,990
6	To promote environmentally friendly and advanced technologies for processing, cooking, preservation and packaging of fish and fishery products	36,400
7	To construct at least five (5) quality infrastructure facilitating innovations and consumer protection	22,031
8	To Strengthen EAC's Knowledge Management and Improving Information Access to all Stakeholders	17,350
9	To enhance sustainable mechanisms for mobilising resources to implement EAC Programs and Projects	6,700
10	To maintain and secure ICT systems and records	6,000
11	To participate the EAC Council of Ministers' sessions and convene the Fisheries and aquaculture Sectoral Council of Ministers	37,200
12	To provide General Maintenance of LVFO Motor Vehicles / Fleet	18,000
13	Maintenance of Office Equipment (Maintenance of Office Equipment)	6,000

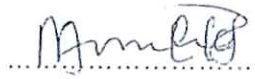
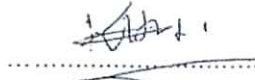

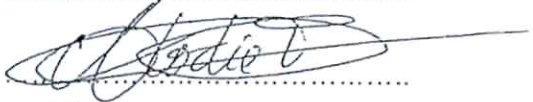
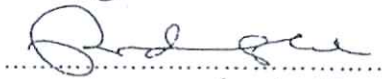
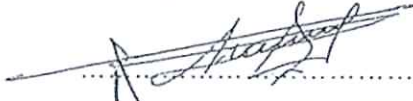


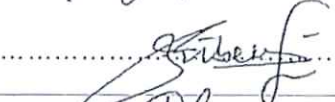

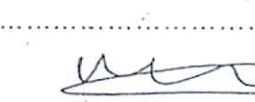
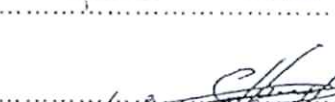


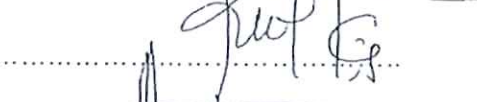


Note:

- i. ICT budget lines are merged to a sum of USD 17,350.
- ii. The Program lines are separately identified and the wording is improved.
- iii. The Council meetings will cost a sum of USD37,200.

ANNEX 2: PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FY 2023/24 UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS.

	Activity Description	Estimates (USD)	Amount recommended for appropriation in the supplementary budget	Amount Recommended for appropriation in the FY 2024/25
1.	To facilitate Connectivity Market Development and Integration activities under the Directorate of Infrastructure	323,100	53,500 Funds have been committed to Convene 1st meeting of Experts Technical for all Ministry responsible for ICT and Network Regulators from each partner state Development	269,600 Justification Funds for other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
2.	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration under department of Information Communication and Technology	640,200	59,360 To convene a Meeting of Experts Technical Working Group on Cross-border data roaming, Digital infrastructure, Cyber Security and Data privacy and protection	580,840 Justification Funds have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
3.	To facilitate Online Market Development and Integration activities under the Department of International Trade	240,550	46,250 To Convene a meeting of the Working Group on Digital Trade to consider detailed work plans for Connectivity Market Development and Integration.	194,300 Justification Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

1. Hon. Kennedy Mukulia Ayason 
2. Hon. Aboubakar A. Kachwamba 
3. Hon. Alex Bahati 
4. Hon. Alodie Iradukunda 
5. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndingiza 
6. Hon. Anastase Manirambona 
7. Hon. Dennis Namara 
8. Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame 
9. Hon. Dr. Saidi Kibeya 
10. Hon. Francois M. Ngate 
11. Hon. Gai Deng Nhial 
12. Hon. Godffrey Maina Mwangi 
13. Hon. Jeremie Maswama 
14. Hon. Kanini Kega CBS 
15. Hon. Khalfan Ngole Mashaka 
16. Hon. Kim Gai 
17. Hon. Paul Mwasu Musamali 

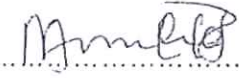
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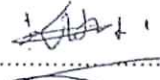
4.	to facilitate Online Market Development and Integration activities under the department of Fiscal & Monetary Affairs	117,000	69,300 To convene a Regional workshop to consider the inception report of the EAC payment systems masterplan	47,700 Justification Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
5.	to facilitate Project Management and Implementation Support under the department of Information Communication and Technology	349,000	NIL	USD349,000 Justification Funds for the other activities have not been committed for FY2023/2024.
Total		1,669,850	228,410	1,441,440

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

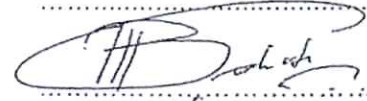
1. Hon. Kennedy Mukulia Ayason



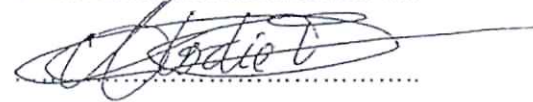
2. Hon. Aboubakar A. Kachwamba



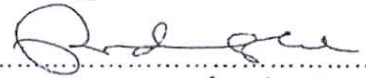
3. Hon. Alex Bahati



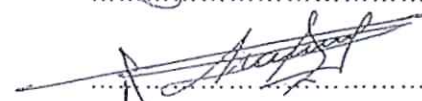
4. Hon. Alodie Iradukunda



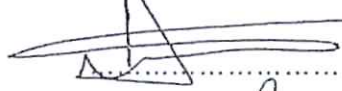
5. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndingiza



6. Hon. Anastase Manirambona



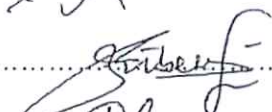
7. Hon. Dennis Namara



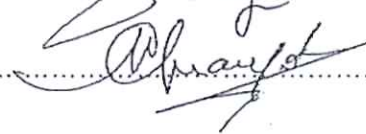
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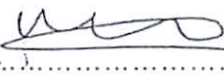
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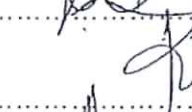
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19. Hon. Stella Nyota Mwetaminwa



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20. Hon. Victor Burikukiye



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21. Hon. Winnie I. Odinga



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