



PARLIAMENT
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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT – (FOURTH SESSION)

THE SENATE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

ON HOSTING BY THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA OF THE 44TH SESSION
OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND 32ND SESSION OF THE
ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1. **Honourable Senators**, I wish to notify all Senators that this December, our Parliament will have the honour of hosting the 32nd Session of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) and European Union (EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU-JPA), to be held at the KICC in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17th to 21st December, 2016. The meeting will be preceded by the 44th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, also to be held in Nairobi, from 14th to 16th December, 2016.
2. The ACP-EU-JPA brings together Members of Parliament representing 78 ACP States that have signed the Cotonou Agreement, for meetings with counterpart Members of the European Parliament representing the 27 EU Member States. The upcoming session is expected to be attended by about 320 Members of Parliament from across the ACP and EU States, as well as officials from the ACP Secretariat, the ACP and EU Councils, the European Commission, as well as NGOs and political groups involved in implementing various thematic areas of the Cotonou Agreement.
3. **Honourable Senators**, one of the most important benefits that Kenya stands to gain by hosting the JPA is the deepening of her relations with other countries as well as expanding her economic ties with the EU as a trading partner. Through the JPA, Kenya will be able to demonstrate her hospitality to the international community and guests intending to refocus Kenya as a preferred venue for international conferences. Consequently, this will lead to an increase in spending and injection of money into the local economy.

4. Most importantly, noting that the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EAC and EU is yet to be concluded, Kenya will be able to negotiate for more favourable terms of trade with the EU, even as the EAC organizes its Member States to ratify the new EPA. This will cushion Kenya from transiting to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Regime in January, 2017, which is less favourable, since Kenyan exports to the EU market will attract duties under the said regime.
5. **Honourable Senators**, the Senate will be represented during the said meetings of the ACP PA and ACP-EU-JPA by Sen. Kembi-Gitura, the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. A number of Senators may also receive invitations to attend side meetings and workshops scheduled to take place alongside the said JPA.
6. That notwithstanding, I hope that each one of us will take an interest in the said events and will endeavor to interact, network and share experiences with colleagues from other jurisdictions.
7. I thank you".

SEN. EKWEE ETHURO, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

1st December, 2016