

Laid on Table ~~by~~ by Hon. Dr. Woda Jeremiah on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2019



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EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly for the Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA FSN),” held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Skyz Hotel, Naguru-Kampala

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 10 MAR 2020	DAY: TUESDAY
TABLED BY:	Hon. Dacle Aden Leader of the Opposition
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Lemua Mose.



Clerk's Chambers  
EAC Headquarters  
EALA Wing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Arusha - TANZANIA

December 2019

## 1.0 Introduction

Members of the "Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA FSN)," held their Second Annual General Meeting from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Skyz Hotel, Naguru-Kampala at a two day function that was officiated by Hon. Christopher Kibanzanga, the State Minister for Agriculture. The law makers later joined FAO and government of Uganda to celebrate the World Food observed on 16 October 2019, in Hoima District, the Republic of Uganda. The celebrations were officiated by H.E. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Vice President of the Country.

Membership of the Alliance is comprised of national Parliamentary Alliances/caucuses/committees from nine Eastern Africa countries including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Membership was extended to East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Inter-parliamentary Union of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD IPU). EAPA FSN aims to unveil the potential of Parliamentarians for the creation of enabling political environment for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition through support to the creation of national Parliamentary alliances, sharing of experiences and best practices on FSN, strengthening and harmonization of legal and policy frameworks at the regional, national and sub-national levels and collaboration amongst parliamentarians, parliamentary bodies, governments and other key stakeholders such as civil society organizations, development partners (including, but not limited to, UN Agencies, donors and international NGOs, etc.), academic institutions, the private sector and local communities.

The Alliance will also engage and influence policy decisions that will prioritize resource mobilization and allocation for food security and nutrition in individual member countries and RECs and in the Eastern Africa region as a whole. Given that the Alliance is at infancy and there is need to fast track its operationalization, the General Assembly agreed to organize the second General Assembly meeting in October 2019 with FAO support, to endorse the work plan and road plan, deliberate on the hosting institution, and discuss operating documents and tools. Parliament of Uganda offered to host the meeting, which

was an opportunity for Member Parliaments to provide an update on actions they have undertaken so far.

EALA was represented by;

1. **Hon. Dr. Woda Jeremiah Odok:** The Secretary General of EAPA FSN
2. **Hon. Mathias Kasamba:** Chairperson Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources Committee
3. **Mr. Abbas Mutumba:** Aide to Hon. Kasamba Mathias

## 2.0 Objectives

The 2nd General Assembly of the EAPA FSN was held on the sideline of the commemoration of the World Food Day 2019 and the 40 years of FAO presence in Uganda. The objectives of the meeting were to;

- Provide updates on actions undertaken and progress made by Member Parliaments and the Executive Committee since the inaugural General Assembly held in April 2019 in Arusha.
- Deliberate on the hosting institution and the EAPA FSN Strategic Plan and road map of activities, operating documents (rules and procedures of the EAPA FSN, TOR of the Executive Committee, reporting templates and briefing kit for partners and donors;
- Share knowledge and experience on policy and legislation coherence for improved FSN in Eastern Africa
- Participate in the commemoration of the World Food Day 2019.

## 3.0 Participants

The meeting brought together members of EAPA i.e. two MPs from each member country and REC's, one Parliamentary Assistant/clerk from each country and REC's also attended. The State Minister for agriculture officiated at the opening ceremony as Guest of Honor. The FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, and other country

representatives of UN agencies and other development partners based in Uganda also attended.

#### **4.0 Workshop Proceedings**

##### **4.1 Official Opening**

###### **4.1.1 FAO Country Director, Dr. Antonio Querido**

The Country Representative of FAO who was the moderator of the opening session, highlighted the growing numbers of people slipping into obesity and malnutrition in the world. The Country director said that FAO was celebrating 40 years of partnership with the government of Uganda in promoting Food Security. He added that Parliamentarians were critical players in ensuring good policies, appropriation, oversight towards improved agriculture and Food security in the country. Therefore it is Parliamentary and government's task to formulate policies and laws that prevent hunger and malnutrition.

###### **4.1.2 Hon. Agaba Abbas, Vice Chairperson of EAPA-FSN**

The Vice Chairperson, also the Chairperson of the *Uganda Parliamentarians Forum on Food Security, Population and Development*, welcomed Members to Uganda and thanked them for accepting to be hosted in Kampala for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. The vice Chairperson reiterated that EAPA FSN was an advocacy platform for Parliamentarians to champion and speak for food security and nutrition.

He added that the ongoing efforts by the parliament of Uganda which adopted the ambitious "Zero Hunger Constituencies" as part of the Malabo declaration of Zero Hunger by 2025.

###### **4.1.3 Dr. David Chimimba Phiri**, the FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the Africa Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), expressed that while over 820 million people in the world are food insecure, over 256 million people were in Africa and nearly 133 million people live in Eastern Africa, representing 52% of the entire hungry population in Africa.

Dr. Phiri challenged EAPA FSN and FAO to bring on board;

- The private Sector players who facilitate the processes like, tractor assemblies, manufacturing.
- Seed and Germplasm private sector
- National Research Stations
- Religious and cultural leaders, to the process of fighting hunger and malnutrition.

#### **4.1.4 Hon. Abdi Hassan, Chairperson EAPA-FSN**

The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Kampala, and in a special way welcomed and congratulated MPs from the Republic of Burundi who were attending the EAPA-FSN meetings for the very first time. He also thanked FAO for the continued support and guidance rendered to the newly formed sub regional Parliamentarians association. He requested the MPs and delegates present to continue striving hard to drum up support by their governments towards improving the Food security and Nutrition standards of the populations they represent.

**4.1.5 Hon. Christopher Kibanzanga**, the State (Deputy) Minister for Agriculture, Government of Uganda welcomed Members of Parliament from across Eastern Africa. The Hon State Minister passed on the Rt. Hon Speaker's apology for failing to make it as guest of honor adding that she had led a Ugandan delegation to IPU in Belgrade-Serbia. The minister also passed on the apologies of the senior Minister of Agriculture who was attending a cabinet meeting that day at State House-Entebbe.

While referring to the population figures earlier mentioned by Dr. Phiri, the minister said that as Parliamentarians, there was a lot of work to be done to alleviate the deplorable situation. He tasked the MPs to become champions by investing in Agriculture noting that the demand for food would hit the 10 Trillion Dollar mark to feed the world.

The minister challenged all participants to focus of food processing to minimize food losses and waste especially at post-harvest processes. The minister emphasized that

African's attitude towards agriculture must change, and it must start with leaders especially MPs, the young people and the educated elite.

The minister emphasized that Uganda is a signatory to the Malabo Declaration of June 2014 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of September 2015. The Malabo declaration aims to reduce childhood malnutrition (under-five stunting to 10 percent and wasting to 5 percent) by 2025. To achieve this, the State minister for Agriculture said, the government of Uganda has embarked on an ambitious mechanization program across the country. This is currently involving distribution of tractors to organized farmer groups as well as hand hoes to individual farmers especially with mid-sized plots of land in hard to reach areas.

Hon. Kibanzanga stated the above adding that Ugandans are aware that food traders from across the Eastern African region always comes to Uganda to purchase especially maize and beans during harvest times. In response to this revenue stream for farmers, the government is thus focused on enabling the Ugandan farmers to produce even more. He however asked all states across Eastern Africa to make it easy for food to move from where it is in excess to reach those places that are in need .

The minister finally reiterated that Climate Change is real and must focus on climate smart agro-processes. He urged the MPs to take home the resolve for better policies, better legislature, and very strong advocacy for "Zero Hunger by 2030".

- **Updates on EAPA FSN activities**

**Hon. Dr. Woda Jago Jeremiah**, the General Secretary of the Eastern African Parliamentarians Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition, shared the updates of progress of the Executive Committee. She mentioned that the EC had met four times since its formation in April 2019 in Arusha.

Dr. Woda emphasized that the meetings were held to discuss the willingness of EAC to host the EAPA FSN secretariat and in this effort, she mentioned the previous meetings with the Speaker EALA as well as the Deputy Secretary General Productive and social Sectors. Both offices expressed the will to host the secretariat of the newly formed organization.

The other issues highlighted about the Executive Committee meetings were the preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Kampala as well as FAO's commitment to support the initiative especially in its infancy.

Some of the other areas presented and discussed were the EAPA FSN Strategic Plan, Annual Work Plan, Executive committee Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedure, National Data base of key documents as well as the Budget Review

- **EAPA FSN + EALA MoU**

Deliberations on the host institution were halted and the matter was referred to the Executive Committee of EAPA-FSN to contact the EAC and come up with clear Terms of reference for ease discussion on the side of EAPA-FSN General Assembly.

- **Date and Host Country of the next General Assembly**

As a tradition in the General Assembly, the next host for the subsequent meeting was nominated and fully approved to be Djibouti as the Host of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2020 March.

## **5.0 Visit of Chairperson and General Secretary to the Kingdom of Lesotho**

On the other hand, the chair of the Alliance Dr. Abdi and the General Secretary participated in a high level consultation on Nutrition and food security in the kingdom of Lesotho from 16-18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 where the chief guest of the meeting was His majesty Letsie 111 the king of Lesotho, the FAO champion in Nutrition and food security. The king has made much effort in advocating for nutrition and food security in his kingdom. Present at the high level meeting were the prime minister of Lesotho Kingdom, Dr. Margret the representative of AU, diplomatic corps, Members of Parliament and developmental partners.

The meeting discussed many issues pertaining to nutrition and food security and how governments can reduce hunger levels. The chair of the Alliance stated the role of

parliamentarians in fighting hunger and the General Secretary gave a brief on the alliance, its objectives, membership and activities.

Many of the participants congratulated the Eastern African countries for the great progress in bringing on board policy makers and promised that they will also establish such alliances in their own Southern African countries.

#### **6.0 World Food day-16<sup>th</sup> October 2019; Hoima-Uganda**

Lawmakers from the Eastern Africa sub-region joined the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) family and the Government of Uganda in the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Food Day in Uganda. They reaffirmed their commitment to act urgently against the deepening food insecurity and malnutrition situation in the sub-region.

**Hon. Kasamba Mathias**, the Chairperson of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee of EALA informed participants that Parliamentarians from other countries were in Uganda to forge a way forward in fighting malnutrition in the regions that are experiencing hunger. He added that it was the mandate of Members of Parliament of the region to legislate laws that are aimed at ending hunger and allocating more funds to agriculture sector to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa and East Africa.

The ATNR Committee Chairperson expressed his disappointment towards MPs from all over the region for representing 133 million hungry people out of the 256 million citizens, a figure that is 52% of its entire population of the Eastern Africa. He urged the leaders to take matters of food security and nutrition seriously by allocating funds towards bettering the situation.

The **Deputy Country Representative of WFP** said that World Food Program is concerned with the rising rate of malnutrition and food insecurity among the population of Uganda, poor young girls from the age of 15-19 experience adolescent malnutrition which also affect the children they give birth to, it is the reason why they are working with

Parliament and Prime Minister's Office to address such issues of food insecurity and malnutrition.

She emphasised that adolescence, pregnancy and breastfeeding are all stages of life when a woman or girl has increased nutrition needs. Adding that when these periods overlap, the nutrient needs compound hence the greater need for nutritious foods for pregnant teenagers than it is for adult pregnant women.

**Hon. Minister Ssempijja Vincent** said that the government of Uganda under the ministry of agriculture has formulated Standard Operating Procedures for School demonstration gardens. The government is also trying to improve agriculture through mechanization of agriculture e.g. giving out ploughing tractors, provide accompanying implements like planters and weeders. The government is also securing markets from USA, China, and Europe for agricultural products.

**The Vice President of Uganda, H.E. Edward Ssekandi** acknowledged the critical role of parliamentarians to ensure governments are on the right path to transform the agricultural sector from its existing rudimentary stage to a modern system, where the youth and women can benefit in terms of employment and investment. The Vice President also commissioned the Standards Operations Procedures for School Gardening in Uganda.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA FSN) was held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Skyz Hotel, Naguru-Kampala. The law makers later joined FAO and government of Uganda to celebrate the World Food Day observed on 16 October 2019, in Hoima District, the Republic of Uganda. The celebrations were officiated by H.E. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Vice President of the Country.

The countries that converged for the event were Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda as well as representatives from the East African Legislative Assembly. Dr. Phiri's revealed that Eastern Africa's Population represents 15% of Africa's total Population yet it is host to 52% of Africa's hungry and malnourished population was testament that Parliamentarians from the region have got more work to do to improve the situation. As Hon. Kasamba Mathias, the Chairperson, Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources Committee often says; "It's a shame for Parliamentarians to represent a hungry Population"

## Annex

The table below shows the Percentage of Stunting of the children Under 5 years of age, Total Population of the countries and the percentage of the Population under the age of 15 years in each of them.

No.	Country	Under 5 Stunting (%)	Total Population	U15 population
1.	Djibouti	18%	973,560	35%
2.	Eritrea	44.3%	3,495,117	41.12%
3.	S. Sudan	17%	11,062,113	41%
4.	Burundi	56%	11,530,580	46%
5.	Rwanda	38%	12,626,950	41%
6.	Somalia	10%	15,442,905	44.7%
7.	Sudan	38.2%	43,222,726	41%
8.	Uganda	30%	44,269,594	47%
9.	Kenya	26%	52,573,973	41%
10.	Tanzania	34%	58,288,085	44%
11.	Ethiopia	38.3%	112,078,730	39.92%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>365,564,333</b>	<b>Av=42%(153,537,019)</b>

### Stunting

Definition: Prevalence of stunting is the percentage of children under age 5 whose height for age is more than two standard deviations below the median for the international reference population ages 0-59 months. For children up to two years old height is measured by recumbent length. For older children height is measured by stature while standing.

### Wasting

Refers to low weight-for-height where a child is thin for his/her height but not necessarily short. Also known as acute **malnutrition**, this carries an immediate increased risk of morbidity and mortality.


### References:

1. Global Nutrition Report
2. [www.WHO.int/Nutrition](http://www.WHO.int/Nutrition)
3. National Institute of Health-USA
4. [www.worldmeters.info/world-population](http://www.worldmeters.info/world-population)






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ON 04/12/2019

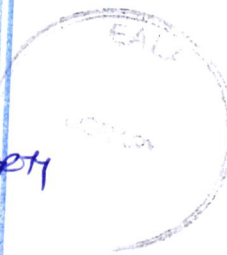
  
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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT  
THE 141ST IPU ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10TH TO 17TH OCTOBER 2019 IN BELGRADE,  
SERBIA.

( ARUSHA, TANZANIA)

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 10 MAR 2020	DAY: TUESDAY
TABLED BY:	Hon. DUTHI ADEN LEADER OF MAJORITY PARTY
CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY:	Lemuna Moses



Clerk's Chambers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, EALA Wing  
EAC Headquarters' Building  
Arusha, TANZANIA

**REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE 141<sup>ST</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019 IN BELGRADE, SERBIA.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Over 1700 parliamentarians and UN and civil society partners from around the world met in Belgrade, Serbia, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 for the 141st IPU Assembly. Under the overarching theme of ***“Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation”***, MPs discussed the latest developments to improve gender equality, empower young people, defend MPs’ human rights, and achieve universal health coverage.

The Serbian National Assembly hosted delegates from 140 countries, with over 70 Speakers of Parliament attending as well as 66 Deputy Speakers and over 700 MPs, of whom 30 per cent were women and 17 per cent were young MPs under the age of 45. The Assembly had a total number of over 2500 participants, one of the most attended Assemblies in the history of IPU so far.

Of paramount importance, this was the second time that Belgrade was hosting the IPU Assembly. The 52nd Assembly was held in Belgrade in 1963. Furthermore, Serbia was one of the first members of the IPU, joining in 1891, shortly after the organization was founded in 1889.

**2. COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ( EALA)**

The EALA delegation was comprised of the following:

1.	Rt. Ngonga .K. Martin	Speaker/ Leader of the delegation
2.	Hon. Aden Omar Abdikadir	Member
3.	Hon. Musamari Paul	Member
4.	Hon. Doup Kim Gai Rout	Member
5.	Hon. Nzeyimaana Sophie	Member
6.	Mr. Manzi Victor	Secretary to delegation

### **3. TOPICS COVERED DURING THE 141<sup>ST</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly discussed the following topics in detail;

- **International law**

It was noted that since the IPU's creation 130 years ago, political dialogue, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of conflict through parliamentary diplomacy had remained its guiding principles. As at all IPU Assemblies, the IPU facilitated dozens of parliamentary bilateral meetings in Belgrade to encourage greater regional cooperation and understanding between its Member Parliaments.

As well as celebrating the IPU's 130th anniversary, Members marked the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Since their adoption in 1949, the Geneva Conventions had been the bedrock of international humanitarian law, which protects people in armed conflict.

- **Gender equality**

The IPU remains at the forefront of efforts to boost women's representation in politics. To this end, the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians explored the various ways to ensure that universal health coverage addresses the needs of women and girls and remove the legal, social, economic and financial barriers that prevent them from accessing health-care services.

The Forum also held a panel discussion to mark the 40th anniversary of

the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, focusing on the role of Parliaments in legislating for gender equality.

Following on from the IPU's groundbreaking work on violence against women in politics, parity debate was held on the theme *#Not in My Parliament*. The debate examined strategies to end sexist harassment and gender-based violence in parliament.

A workshop on quotas assessed the latest developments in the design and implementation of gender electoral quotas and drew lessons from the 62 countries that have gender electoral quotas or reserved seats for women in Parliament.

- **Young people and children**

The Forum for Youth discussed youth quotas to increase the number of young MPs drawing on IPU research, which found correlations between women and youth representation in Parliaments.

It was noted that, empowering youth is the theme of this year's '**Future Policy Award**', which recognizes laws and policies that encourage young people to become more politically involved or help them access greener jobs.

A workshop marking the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child highlighted noteworthy initiatives that had been developed, including with the help of Parliaments, to give children a voice and to take their interests into account.

- **Human rights**

The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians met to consider action to take to defend close to 300 persecuted MPs from Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela, as well as new cases from Brazil, Libya, Sierra Leone and Yemen.

- **Sustainable development**

Giving a parliamentary dimension to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remained a core subject at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. A workshop put the spotlight on decent work and economic growth (Sustainable Development Goal 8) – examining policies that create green jobs in the context of rapid climate change and the technological revolution of the twenty-first century.

The IPU also launched, in partnership with the International Labour Organization, “*Eliminating Forced Labour*”, a new handbook for parliamentarians to address the issue of the 25 million people globally who are still subject to forced labour.

#### **4. SPECIAL SEGMENT TO MARK THE 130<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE IPU**

At the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly, a special segment was held to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPU.

*Highlights of the special segment:*

IPU had never been bigger, stronger and more relevant than it was today. To this end, it was emphasized that through dialogue, the IPU was able to resolve differences through nations and that anniversary was a manifestation of Parliamentary democracy throughout the world.