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Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the consideration of the EAC Annual report 2014- 2015 21st -25th August 2018,EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania

EALA-GP

EALA-General Purpose Committee

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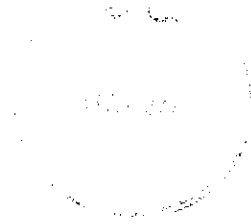


**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE

**REPORT ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE EAC ANNUAL REPORT
2014/2015**

21ST – 25TH AUGUST 2018, EAC HEADQUARTERS, ARUSHA, TANZANIA



1.0 Introduction

Rt. Hon. Speaker Sir,

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is mandated under Article 49 (2) (c) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community to among others, consider the Annual Reports on the activities of the Community. Further, Article 59 (3) (a) of the Treaty provides that the Council shall publish annually and present to a meeting of the Assembly a general report on the activities of the Community and which the Assembly shall consider at its meeting.

Articles 48(3) and 49 (2) (e) of the Treaty also mandates the Assembly to establish Committees for the effective discharge of its mandate. This is specifically in accordance with Rules 81(1) (c) and 81 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The East African Community (EAC) Annual Reports are considered by the Committee on General Purpose and adopted by the Assembly.

The first version of the EAC Annual Report for 2014/15 was tabled by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers before the Assembly during the 3rd Meeting of the 5th Session of the Third Assembly on 25th November 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The report was recalled by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers. It was decided that the report be reviewed and presented to the Third Assembly before August 2017. Subsequently, a revised version of the report was tabled on 25th April 2018 in Dodoma United Republic of Tanzania during the 4th meeting of the 1st Session of the 4th Assembly.

Pursuant to the above Treaty provisions and Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on General Purpose convened on 21st to 25th August 2018 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania to consider the revised version of the EAC Annual Report for 2014/15, and presents its report to this august House for adoption.

2.0 Methodology

During the meeting, the Committee:

1. Reviewed and analysed the revised EAC Annual Report for 2014/15 against the Report of the Committee on General Purpose tabled on 31st May 2017 as well as the First version of the Report that was recalled by the Council of Ministers;
2. Interacted with Mr. Wilberforce Mariki, the Director Planning and Mr. Samson Manirakiza, the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from the EAC Secretariat who were delegated by the Secretary General, Hon. Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko; and
3. Interacted with the Council of Ministers and the Secretary General of the EAC on Tuesday, 25th September 2018.

3.0 Findings and Observations

3.1 The First version of the EAC Annual Report for 2014/15

The Committee considered and took note of the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the EAC Annual Report of 2014/15 held on 31st May 2017.

The Assembly noted that there was no significant difference between the previous one of 2013/14 which the Assembly found inadequate in terms of substance and content, facts, statistics, clarity, analysis as well as actionable interventions to influence policy formulation and legislation in the EAC. Consequently;

(i) The Assembly urged the Council of Ministers to fully assume responsibility as prescribed by Article 14 (2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community to monitor and keep under constant review the implementation of programmes of the Community.

Further emphasis was placed on Article 49 (2) (c) and 59 (3) (a) which provides for the production and presentation of the Annual Report on the activities of the Community to the Assembly.

(ii) The Assembly further urged the Council of Ministers to present to the Third Assembly the EAC Annual Report for the Financial Year not later than the month of August 2017 specifically before the Pre-Budget Conference;

(iii) The Assembly urged the Council of Ministers to ensure that the quality of the EAC Annual Report is improved and to further ensure the timely presentation of the Annual Report to the Assembly to inform the Budget process of the subsequent financial year.

The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers therefore recalled the report and undertook to table a revised version before the House. Following the debate, the Assembly did not adopt the EAC Annual Report for 2014/15.

3.2 The Revised version of the EAC Annual Report for the 2014/15

The Committee considered the report and made the following observations:

1. Lack of Timeliness of the revised report

The Committee observed that the report was not timely at all since it was tabled on 25th April 2018 and did not adhere to the recommendation of the Third Assembly for the Council of Ministers to present the revised version by August 2017. The Committee noted that it was almost a year since 31st May 2017, when the report was recalled.

2. Partial fulfilment of basic requirements and presentation of incomplete information

The Committee observed the following:

(i) Acronyms used are not all defined and the financial statements presented on pages 61-63 were only for three Organs of the Community, namely, the EAC Secretariat, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). The statements of EAC Institutions are missing.

(ii) The Committee observed that the report is also not smartly bound and its presentation is below the expected standards.

(iii) It was further noted that the use of relevant facts, statistics and analyses is still limited and some graphics are missing. An example is found on page 70 under the EACJ where graphics have been introduced, but are completely missing.

The report is expected to report on analyses of facts and figures that are comparative to given base years, including from previous reports showing a consistent trend with conclusive and meaningful action points.

(iv) The Report was found to contain no pictures. These were removed as a response to the comments by the Assembly on the first version of the report on wrongly captioned pictures that were considered inappropriate and disrespectful to the individuals who were erroneously named. However, the Committee is of the view that pictures if relevant and accurately captioned, can still be used to enrich the document and should not be completely excluded.

3. A marked improvement in specific aspects of the report

The Committee noted an improvement in some aspects of the revised report in terms of chronology and coherence in narration, layout, and presentation whereby the planned activities, based on the operational plan was followed by achievements (implementation status), status of budget execution and finally challenges, in that order.

However, this is still not consistent whereby some Institutions did not reflect planned activities including, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) on page 76 and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) on page 85. In instances where planned activities were reported, the activities that were not implemented are neither reported on nor reasons given for non-implementation as is the case with Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) on page 73.

4. The need to make relevant reference to strategic EAC Policy Documents and the Pillars of integration

The Committee observed that there is no reference made to the EAC Development Strategy and the pillars of integration. The due reference to policy documents

should also include Summit Directives, Council Decisions as well as Assembly recommendations and Resolutions. There is also need for monitoring and evaluation tools that report on the performance and are used in reporting and the linkages therein.

In the same context, all relevant working documents that inform the Annual Reports should be availed to the Committee to facilitate review of the report. These documents may also be presented in summary form and include the annual operational plan, biannual or quarterly activity reports showing the implementation status as well as projections for the coming financial year.

5. The need for a set structured format for the EAC Annual Reports

The Committee observed that there is no set structured format to the Report. The Assembly has continuously called for a report that is suitable for parliamentary scrutiny and is able to inform policy and legislation as well as reflect a true picture of the Community. It should clearly reflect set priorities, challenges gaps, opportunities and way forward. The Committee finds this a reflection on EAC staff who do not take their assignment seriously enough during compilation. Furthermore, there is still need for professional editing and final proof reading to create a comprehensive style with coherence, consistency and uniformity.

6. The need to reflect challenges beyond monetary and funding matters

In this regard, the Committee referred to the inexhaustive manner in which challenges are reported on as funding and monetary almost uniformly in all Organs and Institutions without stating the actionable issues that can be focused on or explored. These include the need for changes in mindset for a more positive perception of the integration process by people of East Africa, the salient reasons for non-ratification of protocols, non-assent to and non-domestication of EAC Acts. The solutions the Community has proposed and implemented should be highlighted as well as the status of implementation and tangible results so far realized. These

have not been reported on giving rise to the need for the report to be alive to contemporary issues and challenges and reflect them, with tangible solutions.

4.0 Meeting with the Ministers in charge of EAC Affairs - 25th September 2018

The Committee held a meeting with the Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs led by Hon. Julius Wandera Maganda, Deputy Minister in charge of EAC Affairs, Republic of Uganda, Hon. Isabella Ndahayo, Minister in the office of the President responsible for East African Community Affairs, Republic of Burundi; Hon. Moses Tiel, Minister of Trade, Industry and East African Affairs, Republic of South Sudan, Hon. Dr. Susan Kolimba, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, United Republic of Tanzania. Also present was Hon. Adan Mohamed, the incoming Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community and Northern Corridor Development from the Republic of Kenya as an Observer and the EAC Secretary General, Hon. Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko.

The Hon. Chairperson Council of Ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Committee in considering the EAC Annual Report for 2014/2015.

Hon. Maganda informed the Committee that the improvements the Committee had commended were as a result of the Council over the years taking note of the recommendations by the Assembly and undertook to ensure further improvements in the EAC Annual Reports, particularly since a format had been formulated.

With regard to the timeliness of the report, the Honourable Minister informed the Committee that a format had been formulated and the Secretariat has a report writing Committee that compiles and prepares the report. It is therefore expected that the quality of the report will improve further and be tabled accordingly.

He further reminded the Committee that the Report for 2015/2016 was already before the Committee on General Purpose while the Report for 2016/2017 was

undergoing the final process in the Office of the Secretary General and will be tabled in the ongoing Meeting of the Assembly.

With regard to a given time-frame, the Committee was informed that since the Audited Accounts of the Community were expected to be contained in the Annual Report, the ideal time-frame for tabling is at least six months after the financial year under review. The Council of Ministers would as much as possible, endeavor to adhere to this time-frame. Hon. Maganda further assured the Committee that the EAC Annual Report is only circulated in the Partner States after adoption of the Report by the Assembly.

The Honourable Minister on behalf of the Council of Ministers assured the Committee that the Secretariat is determined to continuously improve its systems by adhering to quality management standards particularly since the EAC is International Organisation of Standardisations (ISO) certified. The EAC is one of the only two ISO certified Regional Economical Communities (RECs). All EAC processes are continuously improved, including taking into account the recommendations of the Assembly with regard to the EAC Annual Report.

5.0 Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers on the following:

1. To strictly adhere Article 14 (2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. This would include review of the reports before they are presented to the Assembly to ensure quality control in terms of among others; facts, figures, analyses, general presentation and layout. The approved format should be consistently adhered to.
2. To table before the Assembly all pending Annual Reports of 2016/17, 2017/18. Thereafter, the reports should be presented in a timelier manner to inform the budget process of the subsequent financial year adhering to the month of February, following the end of the financial year under review.

3. To include complete financial statements of all Organs and Institutions as well as all annexes necessary for review of the Annual Report as pointed out in part 3.2.4 of this Report.

6.0 Conclusion

The Committee appreciates the achievements that the Council of Ministers reported on at that point in time in 2014/15 including regional infrastructure development with improvements in road connectivity and operations across the region, harmonization of national road standards, design and construction of the dual carriageway section along the Northern Corridor as well as operationalization of the One Stop Border Posts, vehicle load control and promotion of EAC as a Single Investment Destination . Progress has continued to be registered in these regional projects and many others.

The Committee noted a significant improvement in the new version of the report but is of the view that further improvements need be done in the future.


The Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt the Report of the Committee on the Second Version of the EAC Annual Report 2014/15.


Rt. Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

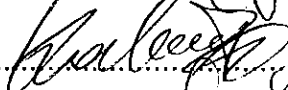
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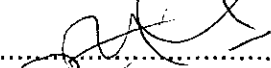
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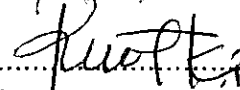
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2. Hon. Ayason Mukulia Kennedy
3. Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier
4. Hon. Dr. Makame Abdullah Hasnuu
5. Hon. Duop Kim Gai
6. Hon. Eng. Maassay Pamela Simon
7. Hon. Gasinzigwa Oda
8. Hon. Gatkek Dut Thomas
9. Hon. Karerwa Mo-Mamo
10. Hon. Namara Dennis
11. Hon. Nduwayo Christopher
12. Hon. Nooru Adan Mohamed
13. Hon. Nzeyimana Leontine
14. Hon. Odongo George Stephen
15. Hon. Opoka-Okumu Christopher
16. Hon. Sergon Jematiah Florence
17. Hon. Maryam Ussi Yahya
18. Hon. Uwumukiza Francoise

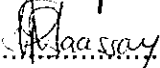

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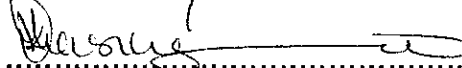

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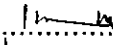

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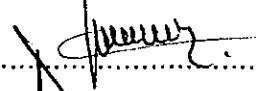

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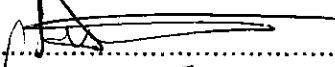

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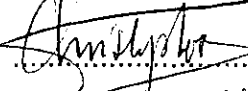

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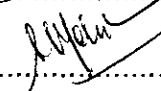

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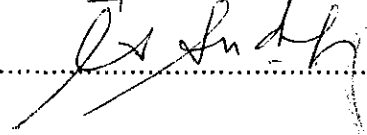

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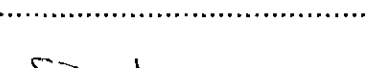

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