



Laid on ~~REPORT~~
on 17th DECEMBER 2018
PCA

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**REPORT OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S
PARTICIPATION AT THE 43RD SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC-PF) HELD AT THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ANGOLA, LUANDA, ANGOLA ON JUNE 23RD, 2018**



Clerk's Chambers
EAC Headquarters
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October 2018

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 43RD SADC-PF PLENARY

The 43rd Plenary of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) was held at the National Assembly of Angola, Luanda, Angola on June 23rd, 2018 under the theme: **Deepening SADC Economic Integration through Industrialization – the Role of Parliament**. The following represented EALA at the Plenary:

- 1) Hon Fatuma Ibrahim Ali Leader of Delegation, representing the EALA Speaker, Rt Hon Ngoga Karoli Martin.
- 2) Hon Mathias Kasamba, EALA Member and Chair of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee.
- 3) EALA Senior Public Relations Officer, Mr. Bobi Odiko.
- 4) Mr Abbas Mutumba, Aide to Hon. Kasamba Mathias.



1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SADC-PF SITTING IN LUANDA – H.E. JOAO MANUEL GONCLAVES LOURENCO

The President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. João Manuel Goncalves Lourenço opened the 43rd Sitting of the SADC-PF at the National Assembly of Angola on June 23rd, 2018.

In his address to the congress, the Head of State welcomed all the participants to the 43rd Sitting. The President took cognizance of the fact that Republic of Angola was hosting the meeting for the third time and said Angola was looking forward to the same. He therefore welcomed all delegates to the Sitting. The Head of State informed the meeting that Republic of Angola was totally committed to the ideals of SADC and the SADC-PF. H.E. João Manuel Goncalves Lourenço reiterated his country's commitment to the ideals of regional integration in the Southern African region. President Lourenço termed good governance, peace, security and competitiveness as key goals and attributes that SADC region (and the SADC-PF) should and must pursue. The President remarked that economic prosperity of the 14 Member State bloc was key and rallied on all countries to seek self-introspection with regards to their contribution to the SADC region. President Lourenco, himself a former Member of SADC-PF, said the Republic of Angola had pioneered the

establishment of SADC in 1992 and underscored the support of the Summit of Heads of State of SADC. The Head of State was emphatic that SADC-PF should be strengthened to be able to be effective in serving the interests of the region.

1.2 REMARKS BY THE EALA REPRESENTATIVE, HON FATUMA ALI

Hon. Fatuma Ali represented the Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon. Ngoga Karoli Martin at the official opening of the Sitting. In her remarks, Hon Ali rooted for the SADC-PF, to speedily transform itself in to a regional Parliament to enable it effectively address the needs of its constituents. In her remarks, Hon Ali informed delegates that such transformation, was not only good for the SADC region, but for the entire African continent.

Hon. Ali informed the House that Africa needed stronger institutions at this particular point in time and in the future to steer her to the much-cherished unity and prosperity of a united continent. Hon. Fatuma Ali informed the meeting that the Assembly fully associated itself with the SADC-PF towards looking into all aspects relating to the establishment of a regional Parliament. She further added that it was vital for the Continent and the attendant RECs to work together to strive for a united African bloc in the near future for the common good of all people of Africa. In the same regard, Hon Ali called for the co-operation with and between the various regional blocs and for the requisite sharing of vital lessons.

Hon. Ali further hailed the recent signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area in Kigali, Rwanda and termed the initiative as critical in going the extra mile to boost intra-African trade and its industrial content. The EALA representative further urged the continent as a matter of priority to remove all Non-Tariff Barriers on goods and related to services, to smoothen the mega-regional trade agreement, promote development and spur industrialization.

1.3 REMARKS BY HON. JESUS SANCHES, MEMBER, PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), H.E. Roger Nkodo Dang, was represented at the 43rd SADC-PF Plenary by Hon Jesus Sanches, Member of PAP. In his remarks, Hon Sanches reiterated the African continent was looking forward to a

time when there is total free movement of persons in the continent. The representative commended the efforts realized by SADC-PF in so far as transforming itself in to a regional Parliament is concerned.

Hon. Sanches said PAP as the continental Parliament, was also keen to see the respective bloc's Parliaments take a more central role in unifying the continent.

1.4 REMARKS BY THE SADC-PF ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL, Ms. SEKGOMA

The Acting Secretary General of the SADC-PF, welcomed all delegates to the 43rd Sitting in Luanda, Angola and said the Forum was keen to meet and to address critical matters in its agenda. The Acting Secretary General further informed the delegates that all arrangements were in place to ensure a successful congress.

AFTERNOON SESSION

2.0 SADC-PF SYMPOSIUM

2.1: Presentation by Dr. Johansein Rutaihwa, Senior Officer, Competitiveness, SADC-PF

The SADC-PF Forum held a Symposium on the theme: *Deepening SADC Economic Integration through Industrialization: the Role of Parliament*. The Senior Officer, in charge of Industrialization and Competitiveness at the SADC Secretariat, Dr Johansein Rutaihwa delivered a keynote presentation on the topic of the day.

Dr Rutaihwa informed the Symposium that SADC region was making progress in improving the business environment and that its competitiveness in general was positive in nature, even though the performance was mixed as a result of various macro-economic factors. In order to enhance industrialization, Dr Rutaihiwa informed participants of the existence of the SADC Industrialization Strategy (2015-2063) which anticipates three key guiding principles; i) Industrialization as champion of economic and technological transformation, ii) competitiveness (at the firm/industry, country and regional level) and iii) the uptake of regional integration in the context for industrial development and economic prosperity. Dr Rutaihwa said the SADC region was keen to prioritise agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and the

pharmaceuticals. The presenter urged Parliaments and legislators to encourage Member States to mainstream the regional industrialization strategy in their national policies and on the need to be fully involved especially on matters regarding domestication of the industrial policies within their national set-ups.

The vision of SADC, Dr Rutaihwa said, anticipates a high degree of harmonisation and rationalisation of policies, and on pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living standards of the people of the region.

2.2: Presentation by Dr Joao Samuel Caholo, Former Deputy Executive Secretary, SADC-PF

Former Deputy Secretary General at the SADC-PF, Dr. Joao Samuel Caholo presented some interventions at the meeting. The presenter said it was vital for legislators to fully embrace regional integration.

The presenter remarked that in a similar vein, national Parliaments also are to a degree, expected to discuss on matters of regional nature given the fact that such (regional matters) have an impact on national issues within the respective economic blocs' agenda. Although Parliaments get their mandate from the local agenda, Dr. Caholo reminded participants that in embracing regional integration, the fundamental issue was to ensure regional matters are espoused but the adaptation to local context is facilitated. The essence of Budget making while considering the local, national and regional context for example was therefore deemed to be absolutely fundamental. The Parliamentarians were further tasked to closely study the regional blueprint and to analyze reasons why some of the set targets were underachieved.

The Symposium was informed that Parliamentarians also have a right to inquire about the revised free movement of persons protocol in the region and on the status of ratification of the same. At the same time, Dr. Caholo urged legislators to be critical and inquisitive on key matters that concern tariff regimes, membership in multiple trade blocs, challenges including the slow removal of Non-Tariff Barriers and other areas considered key to the integration process.

2.3 PLENARY SESSION

During the Plenary Sessions, a number of legislators raised critical issues to the presenters. Hon. Kasamba Mathias, EALA MP and Chairperson of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources said the EAC region continued to underscore importance of industrialization in its quest to realise full benefits of integration. He remarked that it was important for the SADC-region to prioritize matters of industrialization.

Industrialization is a key component achievable within economic communities through enhanced push for integration and commitment to the ideals of an economic bloc. In order to achieve the same, Hon. Kasamba among other things called on all legislators to effectively undertake their role.

Members also raised comments on matters dealing with infrastructure. It was noted that poor infrastructure continues to hamper the quest for regional integration. Enhanced infrastructure was cited as key in ensuring progressive development of the RECs not only in the SADC region but in the entire continent. Other critical matters raised included the following:

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and the associated divisive matters surrounding it were of particular keen interest following the considered effects of BREXIT, which among other things creates an opportunity for Great Britain to engage in a number of bilateral agreements with Africa. This aspect was seen to be critical hence the need to analyse what the impact of BREXIT may mean for African countries. The meeting was duly informed that a good number of countries in the continent were engaged in regional agreements.

Discussions also delved on the Gender issues. It was indicated that at times, gender matters are discriminatory and therefore retrogressive for development in the region. Such issues may affect private capital and in the same vein interfere with the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). A typical example especially is where the women are left out from benefiting from any available funds.

The issue of sovereignty/ loss sovereignty, was also discussed and attributed partially to a culture of poor mindset. It was stated that many nations tend to invest heavily in the army because of fear and suspicion instead of working together to promote regionalism. Sovereignty is a default of public international law and therefore ceding of some degree of sovereignty is necessary for the economic blocs to enhance

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and therefore to ensure the free-flow of goods and services in our territories.

It was stated that clusters for women and youth are keen especially on matters related to procurement.

The EALA delegation was able to attend two Days of actual Plenary Sitting.

3.0 SADC-PF PLENARY SESSIONS

Day 1

The President of SADC-PF commenced the Sitting by welcoming the new Members of the SADC-PF elected from the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania. He further welcomed the Observers from PAP, EALA and the SADC Member States. The President informed the Plenary that the SADC-PF Regional Parliamentary Women Caucus had held its Meeting prior to the Plenary and in the process had elected a new Chair from the Republic of Lesotho.

The President led the Assembly, in adoption of the following Orders of the Day:

- 1) Motion for adoption of Reports of the Executive Committee
- 2) Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Executive Committee on SADC PF, highlighting among other things the suspension of the SADC Secretary General, and appointment of an acting Secretary General in the place.
- 3) Notice of Motion to amend the SADC PF Constitution Articles 1, 10, 11 and 16 as well as the SADC PF Rules of Procedure 10,13, and Heading of Chapter VI and Rule of Procedure 20.

Deliberations

The Plenary was informed that a Tribunal was appointed to investigate on the matter of the Secretary General. The Plenary was further informed of matters of employment contracts including the confinement of two terms of service of 4 years each for the professional staff, while ensuring equitable geographical representation. The 42nd SADC Plenary tasked the Clerks and Secretaries General to review the structures in line with operations of a regional Parliament. It was further suggested the post of an Internal Auditor should be rotational in its nature while that of Public Relations matter should be left to the Office of the Secretary General and an individual from within the existing structure picked to handle the matter. A number

of reforms in the Secretariat and administrative matters of SADC-PF were further proposed by Hon Joseph Ngovyubalema, SADC Member, Malawi.

The Committee also requested the matter of secondment of any staff in the future be assessed in line with the SADC-PF secondment policy. On Gender equality, it was observed that funding continues to be a constraint and the Women Caucus from undertaking its mandate effectively. The Plenary raised the need to enhance the transformation agenda of the SADC-PF in to a regional Parliament. The Plenary was informed that more advocacy in the matter was necessary and suggested Member States further advocate within their nations.

The Plenary was informed that strengthening integration is not expected to infringe on areas of sovereignty for any member state but instead, enhances model laws. The Plenary suggested that SADC States' Speakers and Parliaments may also need to take on an advocacy role and to interrogate the respective Committees of Foreign Affairs in the Member States. Parliaments similarly need to find out the exact state of affairs where all Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs stand on the given mater. The Plenary was informed there is a new spirit prevailing for the forum to engage with other organizations to augment its position to a regional parliament. The Forum must not be seen to be retrogressing from the initiative of establishing a regional Parliament.

The Plenary also took cognizance of the fact that HIV and AIDS continues to be a key threat affecting and destroying the lives especially that of the youth. To that extent, HIV and AIDS needs to be vigorously fought through the use of multi-sectoral approaches.

DAY 2

The Plenary deliberated on the following issues on Day 2

- 1) Motion and debate for the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Democratization, Governance and Human Rights.
- 2) Motion and Debate for the Adoption of the Report of the Joint Session of SADC-PF Standing Committees.
- 3) Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

- 4) Motion on solidarity with Ethiopia and Zimbabwe following the attacks at the locations and gatherings where the respective Heads of State were in attendance.
- 5) Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes.
- 6) Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC).
- 7) Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Infrastructure.
- 8) Notice of Motion on Strengthening Development States in SADC as a Countervailing Response to Neoliberal Macro-Economic Policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
- 9) Motion of youth development and women.

Plenary Session

Debate ensued on the above subject area with Members of the SADC- PF making a number of contributions. During debate on the requisite Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, it was agreed that there is need to duly incorporate the mining law. Members further suggested the need to critically debate on land issues which tend not just to be emotive but also sensitive.

South African Member of SADC-PF, Hon Rosalia Morutoa further moved a motion on gender dimensions to land ownership and agricultural industrialization in Southern Africa.

3.1 Remarks by the Speaker of Parliament of Zimbabwe, Rt. Hon Mudenda on the matters of elections

The Speaker of Zimbabwe, Rt Hon Mudenda said elections would take place on July 30th 2018, and informed the Assembly that prior to the event, Parliament would be dissolved on June 29th, 2018, in accordance with the Constitution of Zimbabwe. He informed the Plenary of the preparedness of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to hold the elections. Rt Hon Mudenda said ZEC was an independent Commission established by Section 238 of the Constitution and it was mandated to

conduct and supervise elections in a free, fair, transparent modality as provided for under Article 239 of the Constitution. Three election Observer Missions from the US, EU and the Commonwealth, had already held discussions with the ZEC who briefed them (Observers) of the preparedness of the Commission for the elections. The Speaker remarked that 28 political parties would be in contention for the Parliamentary elections with an unprecedented number of 23 Presidential candidates in the contestation. The Speaker also ensured the Plenary that equitable media coverage will be given to all the candidates during the campaign period.

4.0 FAREWELL SPEECH BY EALA DELEGATION

The President of the SADC-PF, H.E. Fernando Del Piedade Dos Santos called upon EALA to make the farewell remarks on the afternoon of the plenary. Hon Mathias Kasamba made the remarks on behalf of the delegation of EALA. Hon Kasamba thanked the PAP for organizing the Plenary and remarked that the regional Assembly had appreciated the short but intense participation in the Plenary Sitting. He remarked that many of the national delegations at the sitting were headed by the Speakers' showing the seriousness with which SADC Member States take the SADC-PF and the work it does in addressing regional challenges.

The Hon Member reiterated the need for close collaboration between the two Houses for the benefit of strengthening regional integration. He said the Committee on Agriculture from SADC-PF was expected to pay a courtesy call later on in the year to meet with the counterparts from EALA.

Hon Kasamba wished the SADC-PF well in its endeavor to transform itself into a regional Parliament with legislative powers and remarked that EALA was keen to see her sister institution realize the objective. In conclusion, Hon Kasamba wished the SADC-PF Plenary Sittings all the very best in the rest of their endeavor.

Annex 1

SADC Women's Parliamentary Caucus

- It promotes advocacy and lobbying campaigns to promote women's representation in all decision-making positions in political parties at national and regional levels;
- It develops a women's agenda for the Forum and national parliaments including developing strategic programmes, creating a plan of action and outcome document to ensure effective implementation of programmes in the region;
- It complements the agenda of the national Women's Parliamentary Caucus in monitoring/supervisory role in women's political participation and representation;
- Ensures effective participation and representation of Women in the institution of parliament, its structures in the Forum and other relevant international initiatives;
- It compiles and shares a database of women role models in the region based on good practices to promote women in positions of power and decision-making;
- It provides substantive input in the national processes of political parties' decision-making bodies, intra-party democracy reviews, electoral systems reforms and legislation on women's participation and representation;
- It lobbied for the ratification, implementation and dissemination of information on international and regional treaties/protocols and conventions on women's rights in collaboration with committees responsible for gender and human rights;
- It facilitates additional empowerment and knowledge transfer strategies for national women's parliamentary caucuses and women candidates;
- It monitors and disseminates information on women's participation in positions of power and decision-making;

- It works to increase women's political opportunities and visibility by developing regional messages on women's representation and leadership;
- It advocates for electoral and other legislative and constitutional reviews and reforms that guarantee equal participation and representation of women and men in positions of power and decision-making;
- It advocates and contributes to the creation of a conducive and peaceful environment for women to participate in elections;
- It advocates and lobbies for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals with a special focus on improving the general livelihoods of women.