



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

### **WELCOMING REMARKS BY HON. ABDIRAHIN H. ABDI, SPEAKER OF EALA AT THE ADDRESS BY HON. KENNETH MARENDE, SPEAKER OF THE KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TUESDAY 25 JANUARY, 2011**

Your Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya;  
Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of Kenya National Assembly;  
Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers;  
Hon. Ministers;  
The Secretary General of the EAC;  
Hon. Members of Parliament and EALA;  
Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to first of all thank Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, the Kenya National Assembly and indeed the entire Government of the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host us here in Nairobi once again. EALA enjoys very cordial relations with the Kenya National Assembly and indeed all the National Assemblies of Partner States. We always feel at home and a sense of belonging whenever we are here or in any other National Assembly in the region.

Your Excellency, we are particularly grateful to Hon. Marende for accepting to host us in Nairobi at this moment in time despite the fact that the Kenya National Assembly is in Session. As we all know, the Chamber of the Kenya National Assembly is being remodeled and what is available for both Assemblies to transact business is this Old Chamber. The acceptance by the Rt. Hon. Speaker to allow us share this only facility is a very clear gesture of brotherliness and I think as part of the usual Kenyan magnanimity as well. We are truly grateful.

Your Excellency, this is particularly true because we note the heavy workload before the Kenya National Assembly at this particular moment in time as they need to enact many laws to implement the Constitution. We at EALA are keen to see the full success of this democratization process and we are proud to note that the Kenya National Assembly under the able leadership of Rt. Hon. Marende is managing the process very well.

The Rt. Hon. Marende is a very active Member of the Bureau of the EAC Speakers, an umbrella body the National Assemblies are using to spearhead the set up of a number of institutional arrangements at the EAC. The Bureau has made a number of suggestions which are with the Council of Ministers and we hope they will soon be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Summit for consideration.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my very good friend, the Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly to make his remarks.