



**East African Legislative Assembly, Arusha, Tanzania, August 21, 2012:** In a bid to execute their mandate more judiciously, responsively and efficiently, various EALA Committees are set to benefit from a series of capacity building workshops this week.

Beginning today, the Regional Affairs and Capacity Resolution Committee (RACR) meets in Nairobi, Kenya for a three-day workshop. The objectives of the workshop include imparting information to Members to enable the building of a cohesive and strong Committee with clear regional objectives and targets; reflecting on the roles of a regional Parliamentary Committee and arming the Committee with the necessary skills to carry out its oversight activities.

It is hoped that at the end of the workshop, the Committee Members shall undertake their Parliamentary mandate more effectively.

Later on this week (August 24-25, 2012), the House Business Committee (HBC) meets in Arusha, Tanzania, where it shall among other areas benefit from presentations on its expected role and mandate and how to enhance linkages with the Council of Ministers. The House Business Committee shall also be inducted on how to transform itself into a Commission and further review other provisions of the Administration of EALA Act 2012.

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera is also expected to inform the Committee by way of a progress report on the status of the EAC Headquarters and submit proposals for allocation of office space.

EALA has seven standing Committees which were recently re-constituted following the recent inauguration of the 3rd Assembly. They are the House Business Committee, the Committee on Accounts, the Committee on Communications, Trade and Investments, the Committee on General Purpose, the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution.

The Committees are mandated according to Rule 79 of the EALA Rules of Procedure and the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC among others, to review recommendations on all Bills laid before the House, examine policy areas affecting their subject areas and undertake oversight activities key to strengthening of the integration process. In the same vein, the

Committees may initiate studies and investigation, call for and receive reports of the work of the bodies, programmes and subjects on such matters.

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