

# EALA suspends Speaker Zziwa

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she assumed the seat from her fellow Ugandan legislators, who often claimed they did not understand her methods of work.

The committee on legal affairs convened and resolved that Zziwa stands to allow investigations into the allegations which were forwarded to the committee to go on.

The motion for Zziwa's removal had been tabled twice in the assembly, but had been unsuccessful until when the motion was raised and referred to the legal rules and privileges committee for investigations as per rules of procedures.

The motion to remove the Speaker was raised by Abdullah Mwinyi, a legislator from Tanzania.

On June 4, this year,

Zziwa ruled that the motion for her removal had fallen short of the requirements of signatures of at least four elected members from each partner state and thus collapsed.

This followed the withdrawal of signatures of three members from the United Republic of Tanzania. Zziwa pegged her ruling on Rule 82 (2) of Rules of Procedure that grants the Speaker of the Assembly, the final powers on the interpretation and the application of the same.

However, prior to that, the counsel to the Community, Wilbert Kaahwa had maintained that the motion was 'alive.'

The motion, initially introduced in the Assembly by Kenyan MP Peter Mathuki in Arusha during the Fifth

Meeting of the Second Session of the 3rd Assembly was cut-short when it was adjourned on April 1, 2014 sine die following two applications made at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) halting the debate.

The motion, among other things, accuses Zziwa of abuse of office and disrespect to members.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 53 (3) of the EAC Treaty and Rule 9 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, Members may with a two-thirds majority pass a Resolution to remove the Speaker from office.

Speaking during a media briefing before the regional assembly began its sittings in Nairobi, Speaker Zziwa said there was a syndicate by some members to frustrate her.