

Ugandan member to seek EALA dissolution

Kampala, Monday

FOLLOWING months of interruption of normalcy in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), a member has vowed to move to the East African Court of Justice seeking to dissolve the House.

Fred Mukasa Mbidde, a Ugandan representative, announced the drastic move yesterday after the Assembly was

indefinitely adjourned owing to lack of quorum during a debate that sought to have Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania) suspended over disciplinary issues.

He described what had transpired in the recent past as paralysed and needed a way forward.

"It has been proposed that we are dealing with the Speaker who majority does not want, it

has also been said that five members of the EALA commission have resigned. Four chairpersons of committees of the House have also handed in their resignation letters. East Africans are in for a raw deal," Mbidde said.

As a result of the developments, Mbidde said he was moving to the East African Court of Justice for a declaration that the House is paralysed and use all the resignations as evidence in-

cluding the outcome of an informal meeting the members held.

"I will petition that we are paralysed and cannot perform the functions stipulated by the EAC Treaty, accordingly the Council of Ministers should be urged to prepare appropriate proposals for the summit on how to deal with the matter and by way of proclamation dissolve the assembly," he added.

Although the treaty does not

have a provision for the Assembly's dissolution, Mbidde said he intends to petition the court to rule on the matter and urge the Council of Ministers to prepare appropriate proposals for the Summit (organ of EAC Heads of State) on how to deal with the matter and by way of proclamation dissolve the Assembly.

He argued that a time had come for members to reason that if there were all the questions

and stalemate around them, it was probably best to seek a fresh mandate.

Mbidde said a fresh mandate would ensure that elected leaders would only further interests enshrined in the Treaty.

In Mbidde's support was another Ugandan MP Susan Nakawuki, who vowed to sign an affidavit to the effect.

"We cannot ignore that taxpayers' money is being spent

and there is no value. In the last one year we have been bickering, fighting among ourselves when we could have done much," Nakawuki told *The New Times*.

"It has now reached the brim and an intervention is necessary. If dissolving the Assembly will bring in a team that will serve East Africans and give them value for money, then let it be."

Yesterday marked the fi-

nal day of the two-week Kigali EALA session during which members did not discuss any item on the plenary agenda as they spent the time arguing over the controversies.

However, Kenyan MP Abubakar Zein said Mbidde's line of thought was provoked by the Speaker's proclamation that "if you cannot have me as Speaker, there will be no Assembly."