

EALA wants more youth participation in politics

By James Karuhanga

THE EAST African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on Tuesday adopted a motion for a resolution to celebrate the International Day of Democracy on September 15 by setting an agenda for discussion on what Parliaments are doing to ensure political participation of the youth.

The motion, by MP Nusura Tiperu (Uganda), is in line with the 2007 UN Resolution which stipulates that each September 15 should be celebrated as an International Day of Democracy and encouraged governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion

and consolidation of democracy.

Tiperu said: "Youth in EAC constitute around 63 per cent of the population, therefore, making up a large portion of the active population. The EAC's greatest resource is its youthful population and with their active and full participation, EAC can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead."

In moving the motion, Tiperu, among others, stressed that she was mindful of provisions of the EAC Treaty, especially Articles 6 and 7 on fundamental and operational principles, including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, transpar-

ency, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and people's rights.

MP Straton Ndikuryayo (Rwanda) stressed the need for robust youth representation in the affairs of the Community.

According to Ndikuryayo, youth should have the right to fully participate in the activities of their society," adding that "Democracy needs the youth and they also need democracy."

Even if there has existed a regional youth policy for many years, he said, there is need to put in place a youth platform at the EAC level.

The Inter-Parliamentary

Union (IPU), which EALA and all national Assemblies of Partner States subscribe to, has encouraged all its member parliaments to annually mark September 15 as the International Day of Democracy.

The IPU is proposing to all parliaments to organise activities for this year's International Day of Democracy under the theme "Democracy 2030."

The IPU proposed three themes; future-oriented, youth-oriented, and development-oriented, that could be adopted.

Under the "youth-oriented" theme option which has already been picked for focus, one of the questions pondered is: what

are parliaments doing to ensure the political participation of young people and prepare the future of democracy? The other is, what progress has been made and what needs to be done?

Regional parliaments are required to assess themselves on what they are doing to ensure the political participation of young people and prepare the future of democracy as well as what progress has been made and what needs to be done.

Tiperu stressed that the African Youth Charter recognises the right of every young person to participate in all spheres of society and obliges countries to facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at the local, national, regional and continental levels of governance.

Adopted in 2006, the African Youth Charter is a political and legal frame-

work which provides strategy and direction for youth empowerment and development activities at the continental, regional and national levels across Africa.

Tiperu also reminded the Assembly that on March 23, 2015, EAC Youth Ambassadors' presented a petition to the Assembly urging it to advocate for key issues concerning the youth, including their participation in national and regional politics.

"I am convinced that the theme for the 2016 International Day of Democracy is critical to our region, it is timely, and a significant gear in addressing the challenges of the youth in our region, specifically in facilitating their participation in national and regional politics and leadership for the sustainable development of our region and our continent," Tiperu said.

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By Steven Muvunyi & Remy Niyingize

A DELEGATION from Sudan is in Rwanda for a five-day study tour.

The 22-member delegation consists of members

of the Sudanese Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, a representative of the Sudanese Ministry of Justice and UN representatives in Sudan.

On the first day of the visit, on Monday the del-

Sudanese delegation on study tour

egation met with officials of the Ministry of Justice, with whom they held a discussion on Gacaca courts.

The delegation had earlier in the day visited the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) and on the agenda, and were also due to visit the Kigali Memorial Centre to pay respect to Genocide victims.

At the NURC, the group commended Rwandan peacekeepers in Darfur for their discipline as they discharge their peacekeeping duties.

Ibrahim Adam Ibrahim, the chairperson of the commission and head of the delegation, said they came to learn from Rwanda's experience in post-conflict management, citing the country's recovery from the dire consequences of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

"Rwanda's experience in justice is unparalleled and exceptional. We are surprised to see what has been achieved in peace and development in such a short period after the Geno-

cide. We have come to learn from the ability and skills that helped Rwanda achieve this," he said.

He applauded Rwanda for having many women in decision-making organs, among other achievements.

"Kigali is the cleanest and the most secure city in Africa. All this was made possible because of the good leadership of this country," he said, explaining that the experiences will be emulated in Sudan, especially Darfur, a region marred by conflict that erupted in 2003.

Isabelle Karihangabo, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, shared with the delegation Rwanda's justice experience after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

She said Gacaca courts, among other mechanisms, were put in place to ensure perpetrators face justice and to restore unity and reconciliation.

She explained that Gacaca courts aimed to speed up Genocide trials, and eradicate the culture of impunity, among others.

"Thanks to Gacaca courts, judgments that would have taken many years were concluded in a record time. Genocide trials were carried out at a rate of 87 per cent, the fight against injustice was achieved at 86 per cent, while the Gacaca courts helped promote unity and reconciliation at 87 per cent, among others," she said.

"Gacaca courts facilitated confession and repentance of perpetrators, thus fostering unity and reconciliation," she added.

Karihangabo also shared with the delegation about the *Abunzi* (mediation) committees which were created to settle disputes at the local level without people going to courts.

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UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR Representation in RWANDA
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PO Box 867

30 August 2016

Re: Invitation to Bid: Supply of sanitary and Jerry cans to UNHCR Rwanda

The Representation Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda invites competent and reputable companies to submit offers for the supply of the following goods:

ITB/HCR/KIG/22/16: supply of sanitary pads (under frame agreement)
ITB/HCR/KIG/21/16: supply of jerry cans (under frame agreement)

Details of the above-mentioned tender and bid documents will be obtained from Supply Unit at UNHCR offices located at plot 5744 Nyarutarama Road opposite MTN Center in Kigali.

One copy of each tender should be submitted and clearly marked "original". The tender should comply with requirements raised in Invitation to Bid. Documents must be type-written/computer-generated. Submission should include Copy of Commercial Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate and proper physical address/email/telephone contacts.

Closing date for receipt of tender documents is 09/09/2016 at 13:00pm for the

No submission after this deadline shall be accepted.



UNHCR Representation
Kigali-Rwanda



Some of the members of the Sudanese delegation pose for a group photo in Kigali. Courtesy.