



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**WELCOMING SPEECH BY RT. HON. MARGARET NANTONGO
ZZIWA, SPEAKER OF EALA AT THE ADDRESS BY RT. HON. ANNA
MAKINDA, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TANZANIA –
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

**Rt. Hon. Anna Makinda, Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania;
The Chair of the Council of Ministers and Hon. Ministers;
Hon. Members of EALA;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Afternoon;**

Rt. Hon. Speaker:

Allow me first and foremost to express my appreciation to you for the warm hospitality and for your generosity since we arrived here in Dar es Salaam on August 21, 2014. We thank God the Almighty for making this possible and his protection and blessings to our Partner States of EAC and the United Republic of Tanzania in particular.

On behalf of EALA and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to you my heartfelt appreciation and through you to the Government and to the citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania.

I thank you for granting us access to the facilities at the Parliament of Tanzania and at the Karimjee Hall for the 1st Session of the 3rd Session of the 3rd Assembly.

Indeed, I confirm that the Clerk to the Parliament, Dr. Thomas Kashililah and his entire staff have toiled to this late hour to ensure that our stay is comfortable. I have personally witnessed and do attest to their commitment to work. The fact that Parliamentary staff offered their Offices to ensure that EALA Members and staff are accommodated, portrays their collective magnanimity and grace.

Rt. Hon Speaker, in many ways, you have gone above and beyond your call of duty. I must congratulate you for the arduous task that has seen you complete the facelift of the Karimjee Hall in time for EALA's occupancy. We are very grateful and indeed indebted to you.

Both the Parliament of Tanzania and the EALA continue to enjoy warm and cordial relations. Our collaborative efforts are further anchored on Article 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

This is the first time that the 3rd Assembly is meeting in Dar es Salaam as part of the pursuit of the principle of rotation anchored on EALA's Strategic objective of enhancing the visibility of the Assembly by taking it nearer to the people. Meetings of the Assembly are now regularly held in all the Partner States as per the Provisions of Article 55 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

The session takes place at an important time in the integration process when the region is realizing irreversible development. I am confident that both Parliaments shall continue to play a fundamental role in strengthening the integration process through the requisite legislative, oversight and representative framework.

I must congratulate you and the Parliament of Tanzania for being the first Partner State to ratify the Monetary Union Protocol signifying your commitment to the integration process.

I urge you to continue being steadfast in ensuring the integration process is strengthened. In this regard, I also acknowledge as innovative, the fact that Parliament has set aside time to receive reports from EALA Members in order to be fully apprised on what is happening at the EAC.

Rt. Hon Speaker, I wish to put it on record that your reign at the Parliament of Tanzania has witnessed tremendous growth in realizing the mandate of Parliament.

I have followed keenly the work of your Parliament. I am informed that a Bill that will affirm and entrench Parliaments' oversight role in the management of the national budget is underway. The proposed law is good since it is designed to ensure discipline in budget management. It also places responsibilities and controls on Government when it comes to overall budget management. I wish to congratulate you in advance for the feat.

Rt. Hon Speaker, your experience in Parliament goes back several years to 1975 when you were first nominated to the House. When the annals of history are written, it shall surely be recorded that you are the first woman Speaker in the Parliament of Tanzania since the first Speakership of Adam Sapi Mkwawa in 1964. I am sure, in one of the chapters of Katiba, it shall be clearly annotated that in the fullness of time, you were part of the leaders who contributed to a new constitutional dispensation.

Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate you, Rt. Hon. Speaker, upon being elected the new Chairperson of the East African Community Bureau of Speakers early this month during the 9th Meeting of the Speakers' Bureau held in Nairobi, Kenya. I am

confident that you will build on the achievements of your predecessors by using this important platform to drive the East African integration agenda forward.

I wish also to congratulate you upon the successful CPA meeting held in Ngurdoto, Arusha this July. The successful conference in Arusha of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa region, where you also double up as President was an added testimony of your impeccable leadership both in the region and Africa. This makes us proud as women!

I wish to commend you for incisive style of management in the affairs of your Parliament and for effective guiding of Members of the Parliament of Tanzania. We applaud you because you are the Netball Champions of the EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games 2012-2013 and we promise this time around EALA is working hard to take the trophy.

Let me seize this opportunity to assure you that we as EALA are committed to enhancing the cordial relations in the framework of Parliamentary diplomacy.

With these few remarks, it is now my humble duty to welcome the Rt. Hon. Anna Makinda, to make her remarks. Karibu Mheshimiwa!