



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1ST MEETING – 4TH SESSION – SECOND ASSEMBLY

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY HON. ABDIRAHIN H.H ABDI, AT THE
ADDRESS TO EALA BY H.E THERENCE SINUNGURUZA, 1ST VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER,
2010, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI**

Your Excellency, Therence SINUNGURUZA, the 1st Vice President of the Republic of Burundi,

Your Excellency, Rt. Hon. Pie NTAVYOHANYUMA, Speaker, Burundi National Assembly,

Hon. Dr. Diodorus Kamala, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers,

Hon. Ministers,

Hon. Members of EALA and the National Assembly of Burundi,

The Deputy Secretary General, East African Community,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

All invited guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

H.E. Pierre NKURUNZIZA has graciously sent the 1st Vice President, H. E. Therence SINUNGURUZA to represent him at this Special Sitting and to address the Assembly. While the President very much wanted to address the Assembly, he had to attend to official engagements outside the country. He wishes all of

you the very best in your deliberations and stay here in Burundi over the next two weeks.

Having said that, I stand to first and foremost congratulate you for having been appointed to the high office of first Vice President of the Republic of Burundi. It is reminiscent of the trust the President has placed in you in the management of the public affairs of Burundi. May I also through you congratulate the President for his recent resounding re – election as President of the Republic of Burundi. The elections, witnessed by the whole world, were reported to have been peaceful throughout the country. I therefore, on behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly, wish to thank the President, the Government and the people of Burundi for having conducted such peaceful elections, more so after the Republic of Burundi had gone through a troubled period in the recent past.

Hon. Members, I was honoured to attend the swearing in ceremony of President Nkurunziza on August 26, 2010 here in Bujumbura. In his acceptance speech, President Nkurunziza swore among others things, to abide by the Unity Charter, the National Constitution, national solidarity and to promote social cohesion. Indeed, as promised, the new Government announced by President Nkurunziza comprises of Members from other political parties, a gesture which we must all applaud. It is our sincere hope that all the other parties support these initiatives for the sake of peace and development of this nation.

We have trust in the political leadership of Burundi to ensure stability and peace in this country and I am sure the majority of the people of Burundi do so as well. Under the stewardship of the President, major achievements have been recorded in the sectors of education, healthcare and infrastructure. Your economy is

booming and continues to attract both foreign and local investments. These are no mean achievements.

We as an Assembly are happy to note that you have vowed to work closely with the President to continue on the path of reconciliation, the fight against poverty and zero tolerance for corruption. These are challenging promises, but the people of Burundi have demonstrated that they have trust in the country's leadership. It is our sincere hope that these facts will inspire Your Excellency to work for your country to take it to new heights. We pledge our support to you, the President and the people of Burundi that we shall do everything possible to support this cause.

Finally, Your Excellency, I thank you for once again accepting to address the Assembly today. By this, you have shown that you are a true friend of the East African Legislative Assembly.

With those few remarks, it is my humble duty to invite Your Excellency to address this August Assembly, today Tuesday 14th September 2010.

Welcome Your Excellency.