

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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REMARKS BY RT. HON. JOSEPH NTAKIRUTIMANA, SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA), AT THE 153RD IPU: LAKE NYASA HALL, LAKE NYASA BUILDING, AICC, ARUSHA – TANZANIA

- Madam President of the IPU, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ackson Tulia;
- The Secretary General of the IPU, Ms. Anda Filip;
- Honourable Speakers and Heads of Delegation present;
- Distinguished delegates;
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon!!

- On behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly, I am deeply honoured to welcome you to Arusha, the proud host city of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the seat of the East African Community.
- Arusha is home to the East African Community Secretariat, the East African Court of Justice and the East African Legislative Assembly. Our offices are only a three-minute walk from this venue. I therefore warmly invite you to visit the EAC Headquarters and familiarise yourselves with the institutions that advance East African integration.
- Madam President, we are meeting under the theme, “***Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all***”.
- This theme is both timely and compelling, as citizens everywhere continue to demand more responsive, accountable and effective leadership.

- Countries have established various mechanisms to ensure that their people enjoy good governance in their daily lives. Governments and public institutions have increasingly accorded good governance a central place in public administration. Notwithstanding these efforts, communities in many parts of the world remain dissatisfied and continue to call for institutions that listen, deliver and inspire trust.
- Within the East African Community, the East African Legislative Assembly has taken concrete steps to improve the well-being of our people and strengthen participatory regional governance:
 - (i) The Assembly conducts public hearings before enacting legislation, thereby ensuring that the voices and perspectives of East Africans inform the legislative process;
 - (ii) Through its Standing Committees, the Assembly undertakes oversight activities across the EAC Partner States to ensure that EAC policies, programmes and investments translate into equitable opportunities and improved livelihoods for all.
 - (iii) EALA Members scrutinise the EAC budget before its approval, promoting accountability and the prudent use of Community resources;
 - (iv) The Assembly has established Women's and Youth Caucuses to strengthen the representation and participation of women and young people in governance; and
 - (v) We are embracing digital innovation to improve public service delivery across East Africa.
- **Honourable Colleagues**, parliaments are the bridge between the aspirations of the people and tangible public action. EALA remains committed to demonstrating how regional unity, representative governance and collective purpose can transform lives across East Africa.
- May our deliberations during the 153rd IPU Assembly strengthen good governance, deepen public trust, empower communities and expand opportunities for all.

I thank you for your kind attention.