



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

33RD SITTING - FOURTH MEETING – SECOND SESSION: FIFTH ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 26th June, 2024

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:40 p.m. in the EALA Chamber, EAC
Headquarter Arusha, Tanzania*

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr Joseph Ntakirutimana, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Hon. Members, good afternoon and welcome back again. I have received a request from the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose that item number two on our Order Paper be deferred because the Committee report is not ready.

MOTION FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO RESOLVE INTO A COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS AND A COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE EAC BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

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Dr Makame: Procedure.

The Speaker: Proceed, Hon Makame.

3.45

Dr Hasnuu Abdullah Makame (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am standing on a point of procedure on the order of proceedings. We have an item pending consideration for the Financial Year 2023/2024. How then can we proceed to the item of FY2024/2025? There should be a sequence.

Mr Speaker, I propose, that we do not touch anything for FY2024/2025 until we conclude on the matters of FY2023/2024. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Could you clarify more.

Dr Makame: Mr Speaker, as it stands now, according to the order paper that was presented to the members, we were going to consider the report of the Committee on General Purpose on the supplementary budget of FY2023/2024 and thereafter consider the budget speech for FY2024/2025. When we start dealing with the issues of FY2024/2025, it means that we are considering issues of the next financial year, which implies that, we have already cleared the issues of this financial year.

Mr Speaker, for that particular reason, I beg you to guide us in a proper way, on how we are going to conduct our business. Because once we start deliberating on the issues of FY2024/2025 it means the issues of FY2023/2024 have all been concluded. Thank you.

The Speaker: You are welcome. But there is a way we can debate yesterday's speech. Of course, we know that the report of the Committee on General Purpose relating to the supplementary budget and the main budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 have not yet been tabled. Your contributions can therefore be focused on the policy matters contained in the EAC budget speech and not going into the details of the FY2023/2024.

Dr Makame: Mr Speaker, sorry for coming back to this matter but I need more clarification. Does that mean we are not going to resolve ourselves into a Committee of Ways and Means. We shall remain as an Assembly and give our views because once we are in the Committee of Ways and Means, it means we have already started the budgetary process of the FY2024/2025. Thank you.

Ms Rose Akol: Procedure.

The Speaker: Who is asking for procedure?

Ms Rose Akol: Mr Speaker, I am.

The Speaker: Proceed, Hon Akol.

2.47

Ms Rose Akol Okullu (Uganda): Thank you. Rt hon. Speaker. for this opportunity to raise a procedural matter. This afternoon, we should have been considering the supplementary and then proceed to the main budget. However, as we can all observe here in our Rules of Procedure and even the Treaty, the budget process is a shared responsibility. As you can see, we do not have any ex-officio member on the front bench to supplement and perform the functions they are required

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to as we move into either considering the supplementary budget or even the main budget. Is it procedurally right for us to continue being here when we do not have the front bench to even move the motions in regard to the budgets we are about to consider.

Dr Makame: Information. Mr Speaker the front bench is not here and even the Counsel to the Community (CTC) is not here. This is worse than what we have experienced before.

Mr Victor Burikukiye (Burundi): Further information. The situation at hand is that the front bench is empty. The debate on the budget speech will not be possible because we would be talking to ourselves.

The Speaker: Honourable members, you are right. We do not have time to waste. Let us suspend the House for 15 minutes and look for our ministers and the Secretary General.

(The House was suspended at 14.50 p.m._)

(On resumption at 3.11 p.m., the Speaker presiding.)

The Speaker: Hon members, as you can see, the front bench is empty. There is no one. It is difficult to conduct our business today. The Committee on General Purpose needs more time to interact with the Council of Ministers and the departments they have not met with. For this reason, I adjourn this house until tomorrow, Thursday, 27 June 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

(The House rose at 3:12 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 27 June 2024 at 2.30 p.m.)