



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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SNA
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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON
ITS CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIFTH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE TO 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA,
TANZANIA

SEPTEMBER 2025

*The Directorate of Audit, Appropriations
& General Purpose Committees
The National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI.*

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 24 SEP 2025	DAY: <i>Wed</i>
TABLED BY:	<i>Hon. Makali Mulu, MP Vice-Chair Person</i>
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	<i>Modo</i>

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Contents

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS.....	5
CHAIRPERSON’S FOREWORD.....	6
1.0 PREFACE.....	7
1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee	7
1.2 Committee Membership.....	7
1.3 Committee Secretariat.....	8
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	9
3.0 REPORT ON THE CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE TO 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA	10
3.1 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025	10
3.1.2 Challenges in the Implementation of the Budget.....	10
3.1.3 Observations and Recommendations.....	11
3.1.4 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions.....	11
3.2 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.....	12
3.3 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025	15
3.4 Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One- Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization	18
3.4.1.1 Introduction	18
3.4.1.2 Projects under LVBC.....	19
3.4.2.1 Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (LVB-IWRM) project	19
3.4.1.3 Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT).....	19
3.4.1.4 Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin Project.....	20
3.4.1.5 Project Achievements in Kenya.....	20
3.4.1.6 The Scale WAYS Project.....	20
3.4.1.7 The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project	21
3.4.1.8 Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Headquarters	21

3.4.1.9 Resource Mobilization Initiatives by the LVBC	22
3.4.1.10 The Committee recommendations to the Assembly	22
3.4.2 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)	22
3.4.2.1 Introduction.....	22
3.4.2.2 Ongoing Projects for Food Security	23
3.4.2.2.1 European Union (EU)-EAC True Fish Project	23
3.4.2.2.2 ECOFISH Program	23
3.5 Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15 th - 22 nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda	25
3.5.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions.....	26
3.5.2 Key observations from the oversight activity.....	26
3.5.2 Operationalization of the EAC Elections Observer Missions	27
3.5.3 Observations on the Committee’s recommendations to the Assembly	27
3.6 Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya	29
3.7 The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 and the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024.....	31
3.7.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development submissions.....	31
3.8. A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi	32
4.0 COMMITTEE RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDATIONS.....	33
ANNEXURES.....	34

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
ATNR	Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources
CASSOA	Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CMP	Common Market Protocol
EAC	East African Community
EOMs	Election Observer Missions
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HPIs	High Priority Investments
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCEA	Inter University Council for East Africa
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Development Bank)
LVBC	Victoria Basin Commission
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
LVB - IWRM	Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
OSNP	- Operation Save Nile Perch
UNEP	- United Nations Environment Programme

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This Report contains the Committee's consideration of the reports of the East African Legislative Assembly, which comprises the Bills, Reports, and Resolutions transacted by the EALA at its Fourth Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly, which took place from 23rd June to 4th July, 2024, in Arusha, Tanzania. Subsequently, the various reports were transmitted to the National Assembly for deliberation, and the Reports, resolutions, and Bills of EALA were laid on the Table of the House on 1st August, 2024 and committed to the Committee as provided for in Article 65 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and subsequently committed to the Select Committee on Regional Integration for consideration and reporting.

The reports are as follows -

- a) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025;
- b) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- c) Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025;
- d) Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization;
- e) Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th – 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda.
- f) Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th – 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.
- g) The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- h) The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024;
- i) A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.

The Committee considered the various business transacted by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) during a retreat held from 8th to 9th November 2024 and incorporated the views of the Committee, as well as those of the Parliamentary Budget Office. Additionally, the Committee also took into account the submissions of the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development regarding the above reports during another retreat from 5th to 8th June 2025.

I wish to thank the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly most sincerely for the invaluable support accorded to the Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

On behalf of the Select Committee on Regional Integration and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to this House the Report of the Committee on its consideration of Business Transacted by the East African Legislative Assembly at the Fourth Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly from 23rd June to 4th July, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania.

DATE..... 23/09/25 SIGN..... 

HON. (CS) MAYAKA IRENE NYAKERARIO, MP

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Committee on Regional Integration is a select Committee of the House established under Standing Order 212 of the National Assembly's Standing Orders, which sets out the mandate of the Committee. The Committee was constituted in October 2023 and reconstituted on 5th March 2025, following the adoption of a motion on membership of committees by the House, and comprises twenty-one (21) members who will serve for the remainder of the term of the 13th Parliament.
2. The Committee is also mandated to –
 - (a) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the East African Legislative Assembly;
 - (b) examine the Bills introduced in the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community;
 - (c) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the Pan African Parliament, the African, Caribbean and Pacific European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly, and other regional integration bodies; and,
 - (d) Inquire into and examine any other matter relating to regional integration generally requiring action by the House.

1.2 Committee Membership

3. The Committee comprises the following twenty-one Members -

Hon. (CS) Irene Mayaka, MP – Chairperson
Nominated

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP – Vice-Chairperson
FAFI Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
Ugenya Constituency
Movement for Democracy and Growth

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
Marsabit (CWR)
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
Kirinyaga Central Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
Kipipiri Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
Khwisero Constituency
Orange Democratic Party
Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
Wundanyi Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu, MP
Kitui Central
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
Karachuonyo Constituency

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP
West Pokot (CWR)

Kenya Union Party

Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
Meru (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
Kericho (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
Kesses Constituency

United Democratic Party

Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
Nyaribari Chache Constituency

Kwale (CWR)

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
Bahati Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
Bomet East Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
Kimilili Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
Kitutu Chache North Constituency

United Democratic Party

1.3 Committee Secretariat

4. The secretariat facilitating the Committee comprises: –

Mr. Mohamed Jimale	-	Clerk Assistant I (Team Leader)
Ms. Jane Gathoni Ouko	-	Clerk Assistant II
Mr. Bernard Toroitich	-	Clerk Assistant III
Mr. Dominic Kyallo	-	Legal Counsel II
Mr. James Muguna	-	Research Officer I
Mr. Edwin Machuki	-	Fiscal Analyst III
Ms. Mercy Mayende	-	Media Relations Officer III
Ms. Florence Wanja	-	Communication Officer III
Mr. John Nduashi	-	Sergeant at Arms

2.0 INTRODUCTION

5. The East African Legislative Assembly is the Legislative Organ of the East African Community established under Article 9 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community. Article 49 of the Treaty bestows upon the assembly the functions of legislation, oversight, and representation. It provides for the establishment of committees by the Assembly for such purposes as it deems necessary.
6. The East African Legislative Assembly adopted the following reports at its 4th Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly, which took place from 23rd June to 4th July 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania, and subsequently forwarded to the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 65(b) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community: -
 - a. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2023/2024;
 - b. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
 - c. Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025;
 - d. Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization;
 - e. Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th – 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda.
 - f. Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th – 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.
 - g. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024;
 - h. The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024.
 - i. A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.
7. Article 65 of the Treaty provides for relations between the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the National Assemblies of the partner States. It is in line with the Treaty provision that the reports were tabled before the National Assembly of Kenya on 1st August, 2024, and subsequently referred to the Committee on Regional Integration for consideration pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 212. The Committee considered the reports in a retreat held in Machakos County on 8th to 9th November, 2024
8. In considering the reports, the Committee sought and received submissions from the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development. The Committee's deliberations and findings, specific to each report, are briefly discussed below.

3.0 REPORT ON THE CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY FROM 23RD JUNE TO 4TH JULY, 2024 IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

9. The Committee considered the following reports adopted by the East African Legislative Assembly: -

3.1 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the Implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025

10. The Committee was taken through the EALA's Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025.

The Committee was informed that in May 2024, the Committee on General Purpose met in Arusha to assess the EAC's 2023/2024 budget implementation and later reviewed additional information in June during a supplementary budget discussion.

The Committee considered the following salient issues regarding budget implementation: -

- (i) The programs and projects of the Organs and Institutions in the approved budget for FY 2023/24;
- (ii) The funds received from the Partner State and Development Partners from July 2023 to June 2024;
- (iii) The MoU and Financing Agreements for programs funded by development partners;
- (iv) Usage and implementation of the budget for the FY 2023/24 as approved by the Assembly;

11. Other funds of the Community utilized during the FY 2023/24 included the EAC Peace facility and all contributions and disbursements from that fund.

During his presentation, the Fiscal Analyst informed Members of the Status of Contributions by Partner States as of 22nd June 2024, noting that the contribution due for FY 2023/2024 was USD 51,464,868.00, and only USD 39,825,033.00 had been received, representing 77% of the partner states' contribution.

12. It was also observed that the Democratic Republic of Congo had not contributed any amount for the FY 2023/2024. Further, huge arrears and outstanding contributions of 24,134,620.00 and 35,774,455.00, respectively, caused delays or halted key programs in EAC institutions reliant on funding from Partner States, such as the East African Court of Justice, EALA, EACA, and the Kiswahili Commission.

3.1.2 Challenges in the Implementation of the Budget

13. Members were informed of the impending challenges encountered during FY 2023/24 budget implementation by EAC Organs, including:

- (i) The FY 2023/24 budget approval was delayed until October 3, 2023, after the Appropriation Bill was returned by the DRC and Tanzania, resulting in a late start to budget implementation.
- (ii) Delays in the contributions of partner states hindered the timely execution of programs and projects.
- (iii) Low absorption rates, particularly in institutions such as the East African Health Research Commission, were reported due to staff shortages and delayed recruitment.

14. Under-spending on some development partner-funded programs was attributed to misaligned budget cycles between the EAC and its development partners.

3.1.3 Observations and Recommendations

15. The Committee identified several issues in the budget management and operations of the EAC Secretariat and other organs:

- (i) **Budget Re-allocations Ignored:** During the FY 2023/24 budget approval, reallocations within various EAC votes were not fully entered into the Budget Management System by the finance department. This omission violates Article 132(5) of the Treaty and sections of the Budget Act. *The Committee recommends disciplinary action against the responsible officers.*
- (ii) **Non-Cooperation by EAC Secretariat:** EAC Secretariat officials refused to cooperate with the Committee, denying access to financial information, which the Committee viewed as contemptuous and possibly an attempt to conceal mismanagement.
- (iii) **Unfilled Staff Positions:** Despite vacant positions, funds continue to be disbursed for salaries, with some diverted to other programs. The Committee highlights this as a concern.

3.1.4 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions

16. The Ministry officials reported to the Committee that as at 22nd June 2024, the contributions due from the Partner States were USD 51,464,868, with payment of USD 39,825,033 representing 77% and a total outstanding of USD 35,774,455. The total arrears were USD 24,134,620. The Democratic Republic of the Congo joined the Community in July 2022, and by that time, its remittances had not been appropriated. Its first budget to the Community was during the FY 2024/2025.
17. Notably, the Republic of Kenya and several other Partner States have continued to make their contributions in full.
18. Concerning remittance to the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) and the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Authority (CASSOA) are self-accounting institutions (manage their own finances and budgets, operating with a degree of autonomy within the larger EAC framework). Kenya has paid up to date.

19. Regarding the observations and recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry observed that:

- i. The responsible officers in the finance department failed to enter the reallocation in the budget management system. The 43rd extraordinary council meeting directed heads of institutions and organ committees to reinstate programs whose funds had been earlier reallocated. The committee also reviewed the EALA budget and made internal reallocations to ensure that the Assembly has a maximum of 70 plenary sitting days.
- ii. Observations 2-6 are administrative and are expected to be handled as such at the Secretariat level.
- iii. During the EAC Finance and Administration Committee meeting, financing agreements are available upon request to members, with some reasons cited being strict deadlines imposed by the sponsoring entity. The due process should, however, be followed to avoid lapses. We support the Assembly's oversight of the issue.
- iv. In concurrence with recommendation 11 of the report on the need to develop guidelines to streamline budget executions in all organs and institutions of the community, and priority be given to statutory obligations like salaries and critical programs that relate to the core mandate of the respective organs and institutions.
- v. The Ministry Concurs with Recommendation 12 that any financing agreement submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval must be signed before execution.

Committee's Resolution

20. Having examined the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Assessment of the implementation of the East African Community Budget for the FY2024/2025, the Committee on Regional Integration adopted the report as having been proposed by Hon. David Ochieng, CBS, MP, and seconded by Hon. Richard Yegon, MP.

3.2 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024

21. The Fiscal analyst further took the Member through the EAC Supplementary Budget, indicating the following: -

- (i) The existing Regulation 19(4) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations permits a supplementary budget if the Secretary General requests additional resources for new or ongoing programs within the fiscal year.
- (ii) Regulation 19 (5) provides that a supplementary budget is warranted if (a) *the need for funds is urgent and cannot wait for the next budget*, or (b) *the required funds cannot be met through reallocation*, which informs the need to have a supplementary budget.

EAC Supplementary Budget FY 2023/24

22. On October 3, 2023, the Assembly approved the East African Appropriation Bill 2023, establishing a budget of USD 103,882,880 for the FY 2023/2024. Subsequently, during its 53rd Extra-Ordinary Meeting from April 23-25, 2024, the Council of Ministers adopted a

supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996, sourced from additional contributions from development partners and other avenues. This supplementary budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, were presented in the Assembly on April 30, 2024, by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.

23. The Assembly approved a budget of USD 103,882,880 on October 3, 2023, for FY 2023/2024.

24. The Council of Ministers adopted a supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996, sourced from development partners and other sources.

25. Further, Members were informed that the supplementary budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, were presented in the Assembly on April 30, 2024.

Table 1 summarizes the approved budget vs the supplementary budget for FY 2023/2024.

Table 1: EAC FY 2023/2024 Approved Vs Supplementary Budget (Amount in USD)

Organ/Institution	Approved	Supp.	Change	Changes
EAC-Secretariat	50,931,553.00	54,150,935.00	3,219,382.00	6.32%
East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	4,450,488.00	4,478,538.00	28,050.00	0.63%
East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	17,681,365.00	17,798,525.00	117,160.00	0.66%
Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	8,471,980.00	10,974,157.00	2,502,177.00	29.53%
East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTCO)	2,016,543.00	2,041,543.00	25,000.00	1.24%
East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	1,502,535.00	1,502,535.00	-	0.00%
East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	2,193,811.00	2,496,234.00	302,423.00	13.79%
East African Competition Authority (EACA)	1,391,667.00	1,391,667.00	-	0.00%
Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)	12,394,945.00	16,194,205.00	3,799,260.00	30.65%
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	2,807,993.00	3,963,537.00	1,155,544.00	41.15%
Total	103,842,880.00	114,991,876.00	11,148,996.00	10.74%

Source: EAC Submissions

As indicated in Table 1, the supplementary budget under consideration represents 10.74% of the approved budget of the Community for the financial year 2023/24. This exceeds the 5% limit of supplementary spending pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Budget Act, 2009.

26. Supplementary Budget Consideration for 2023/24.

- Represents 10.74% of the approved Community budget.
- Exceeds 5% limit of supplementary spending-Section 7(1) of the Budget Act, 2009

Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development Submissions

27. The Ministry, in their submissions, informed the Committee that:

- i. In the East African Community (EAC) context, a supplementary budget is a request for additional financial resources beyond the originally approved budget for the financial year. The Secretary General submits it to the Council for approval to fund new or existing programs and activities. This mechanism enables the EAC to address unforeseen circumstances or emerging priorities that cannot be accommodated within the initial budget. The EAC Financial Rules and Regulations govern the process of requesting and approving supplementary budgets.
- ii. In the Kenyan context, a supplementary budget, as outlined in Article 223 of the Constitution, is an additional budget proposed during the fiscal year to address unforeseen circumstances, revenue shortfalls, or to realign the initial budget estimates. It is essentially a mechanism to adjust the original budget during its implementation, often due to events like emergencies or unforeseen circumstances, or to incorporate externally funded projects.
- iii. Under the Programs and projects in the supplementary budget in the financial year 2023/2024, these have been traced and confirmed, totalling USD 11,148,996 in the Council of Ministers report as per table 1 of the main report (page 4)
- iv. Observation 3-6 administrative remedial action expected from EAC SG's office.

Committee Observations and Recommendations

28. The Committee resolved that there is a need to hold a roundtable with all Committees of Partner States that deal with matters of integration and the EALA's budget Committee to discuss the challenges of delay in remittance and non-remittance, which have led to poor funding of the EAC organs.

- i. Members were of the view that partner states should contribute according to their GDP, unlike the current formula, which requires all members to contribute equally.
- ii. Members were also of the opinion that sanctions should be imposed on Partner states that do not meet part of their bargain in terms of contribution.
- iii. The Committee also resolved that the Summit should devise stringent measures against perpetrators of corruption.
- iv. There is a need to amend the EAC Treaty and incorporate the aspect of the Public Finance Management Act.

- v. The Committee also requested that the Council of Ministers urge Partner States to provide political support for the success of the EAC and require that any prospective new members pay their financial contributions upfront as a precondition for admission.

Committee Resolution

The Committee resolved to adopt the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Supplementary Budget request and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024, having been proposed by Hon. Naomi Waqo, MP, and seconded by Hon. Peter Kalerwa Salasya, MP.

3.3 Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025

- 29. The Fiscal analyst led Members through an overview of the Report by the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025.
- 30. Members were informed that pursuant to the provisions of Articles 49(2) and 132 of the Treaty. As further amplified by Rule 81 (c), (e), and (g), Annex 5 (f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on General Purpose proceeded to consider the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure FY 2024/2025.

EAC FY 2024/25 Budget Allocations to the EAC Global Priorities

- 31. The Committee was informed that the proposed budget for the FY 2024/2025 is aligned with the EAC global priorities adopted by the Council and is expected to result in the following outcomes:
 - i. Strengthened peace and security, leading to improved inter-state relations and stability in the region;
 - ii. Increased intra-trade and enhanced access to the international export markets;
 - iii. Accelerated implementation of the road map for the attainment of the EAC Monetary Union;
 - iv. Improved quality infrastructure and increased level of e-business opportunities leading to enhanced service delivery and competitiveness.

The table below indicates FY 2024/25 Budget Allocations to the EAC Global Priorities (Amount in USD)

Global Priority	Budget Estimates
1) Strengthening regional peace, security, political and governance mechanisms to maintain stability in the Community.	5,100,533.00

2) Enhancing intra-regional trade and investment through an enabling business environment	4,729,841.00
3) Establishing requisite institutions and accelerating harmonization of fiscal and monetary policies towards attaining prerequisites for the East African Monetary Union	10,428,665.00
4) Develop a multi-sectoral infrastructure to enhance connectivity in the region's transport and ICT sectors, facilitating timely services.	6,167,238.00
5) Enhancing the social and productive sectors to increase productivity and raise the standards of living for East Africans.	20,265,752.00
6) Enhancing the capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfil their mandates and raise awareness on the EAC integration process.	66,292,413.00
Total	112,984,442.00

Source: EAC Submissions

This allocation reflects the East African Community's priorities in areas such as peace and security, economic and social integration, infrastructure development, and institutional capacity building.

Observations and Recommendations by EALA Committee

32. The Committee reviewed the programs and projects of the organs and institutions and noted the following:

- i. A substantial number of the programs/activities are not linked to the four pillars of the EAC integration.
- ii. There is duplication of some programs/activities.
- iii. Some programs/activities are not aligned with the core mandates of the Organs and Institutions.
- iv. DSAs, tickets, the hire of conference facilities, and ushers cover the cost of most planned programs/activities.
- v. Some organs and institutions deliberately split their programs into micro-activities for officers to earn DSAs, yet these activities have no impact on the integration process. These institutions/departments include EASTECO, LVFO, and the Virtual Office of Political Federation.

33. The General Purpose Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. That the Assembly should improve the reallocations and reprioritise programs and projects and accordingly appropriate funds for their implementation.
- ii. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly direct the Secretary General to make appropriate adjustments in the EAC Budget Management System to accommodate the rationalization/reallocations as approved by the august House in the budget.
- iii. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly direct the Secretary General to submit and lay before the Assembly the final signed copy of the approved budget at the first sitting of the Assembly in FY 2024/24.

The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development's Submissions

34. The Ministry informed the Committee that the disbursement of Partner States' contributions is an area affecting the operations and programs of the community and is receiving various interventions being explored to mitigate the issue, such as exploring sustainable funding mechanisms. Apart from the Republic of South Sudan (USD 8,610,255), the Republic of Burundi (USD 10,085,384), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (USD 14,704,248), which have not honoured their commitments as given during the 56th Extraordinary Council of Ministers, the rest of the Partner States, which had arrears, have honoured their commitments.

35. Additionally, delays in filling vacant positions in EAC Organs and Institutions. In their last meeting, the Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council in August 2025 to consider reports of technical experts on job descriptions, the Quota points manual, and other critical Human Resource matters.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

- i. The Committee recommended that there is a need for the Committees of Regional Integration to be involved in the budget-making process of EALA, from the stage when a Bill is introduced.
- ii. Members observed that the EALA Financial audit should be timely and justifiable so that EAC organs are accountable.
- iii. The Committee proposes that the Assembly urge the Council of Ministers to create a clear path for the full integration of South Sudan, DRC, and Somalia.
- iv. The Committee further recommends that the Assembly resolves that the implementation of this roadmap shall be subject to the concerned Partner States honouring their financial contributions to the Community.
- v. The East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers, particularly the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development, should explain why the delays in disbursing Partner States' contributions to the EAC Budget result in delayed implementation of regional commitments and low budget absorption rates.

Committee's Resolution

36. Having examined the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the FY2024/2025, as proposed by Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP, and seconded by Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP.

3.4 Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

37. The Committee was taken through the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR), which conducted an on-spot assessment to evaluate the implementation of projects by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO). The evaluation focused on the contribution of these institutions to food security and climate change resilience, in line with the East African Community's (EAC) objectives on environmental and natural resource management as outlined in Chapters 18, 19, and 20 of the EAC Treaty.

38. The primary objective of the on-site assessment was to evaluate the implementation of ongoing projects by LVBC and LVFO, and to consider the contributions of the two institutions to food security and resilience to climate change.

Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development Submissions

The Ministry submitted as follows: -

3.4.1 Lake Victoria Basin Commission

3.4.1.1 Introduction

39. Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) is a specialized institution of the East African Community (EAC) responsible for coordinating the sustainable management and development of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The Commission was established under Article 33 of the Protocol for the Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin, which was signed and ratified on 29th November 2003 and 1st December 2004, respectively, and the Lake Victoria Basin Act, 2022.

40. LVBC is, to date, the only EAC institution hosted by Kenya. The Government of Kenya has supported the Institution from its inception in 2004. The Government offered a prime piece of land on the shores of the Lake, measuring 2.8 Hectares, where the Commission is currently building its headquarters, which will be its permanent home. Currently, the Institution is housed at the Nyanza Regional Headquarters (Prosperity Building).

41. The Commission has mobilized resources for several projects within the Basin, which have a profound impact on the residents: Water Supply Projects, Sanitation projects, Catchment restoration projects, Projects to enhance the safety of navigation in the Lake, as well as the

restoration of the Water quality laboratory in Kisumu after it was burnt during the 2007/08 post-election violence.

3.4.1.2 Projects under LVBC

3.4.2.1 Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (LVB-IWRM) project

42. Lake Victoria Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (LVB IWRMP) is a regional programme coordinated by Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and implemented in four Partner States of the East African Community (EAC): Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania through implementation of High Priority Investments (HPIs) in Kampala Uganda; Mwanza, Tanzania; Kisumu, Kenya; and Kigali, Rwanda.

43. The Programme is funded through grants by the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, provided via KfW Development Bank to the East African Community (EAC).

44. The overall objective of the programme is to improve water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the Lake Victoria basin. The project targets to upgrade sanitation in informal settlements for Kisumu, Mwanza, Kampala and Kigali

45. Under this project, the following projects to reduce untreated effluents into Lake Victoria are undertaken:

- i. Mwanza Sewer Network Upgrade Project (Mwanza HPI);
- ii. Kisumu Informal Settlement Sanitation Project (Kisumu HPI);
- iii. Sanitation Infrastructure in the South–East of the Luzira Catchment Area (Kampala HPI); and
- v. Kigali Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant Project (Kigali HPI).

46. In Kisumu City, the HPI is to improve Sanitation in Manyatta, an informal settlement, to benefit over 200,000 residents through; extension of sewer network (Last Mile Connectivity), on-site sanitation facilities, water supply extension and building capacity of the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA), Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO) and the County Government of Kisumu.

47. Detailed Technical Designs were completed in November 2024.

48. As of February, this year, clearance from the KfW on the evaluation report was being awaited to proceed with the issuance of the tender documents.

3.4.1.3 Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT)

49. Aims at improving maritime transport, security, and safety of navigation on Lake Victoria for improved Lake Transport (people, goods, and services), trade, and tourism, which are key ingredients of integration. Specifically, it will:

- i. Improve maritime communication network coverage and functionality;
- ii. Operationalize the regional MRCC and two sub-centres in Entebbe and Kisumu;
- iii. Improve the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships in Lake Victoria;
- iv. Establish, equip, and strengthen the emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) Centres;
- v. Strengthen weather forecast services around and on the lake and other value-added services;
- vi. Develop the East African Maritime Transport Strategy and Lake Victoria Development program;
- vii. Strengthen the capacity of designated agencies in Partner States;
- viii. Support livelihood efforts of women groups around SARs within BMUs; and
- ix. Facilitate the implementation of the Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 and its Regulations and Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria.

50. Kenya has embarked on the construction of the National Maritime Rescue and Communication Centre in Kisumu, and other Search and Rescue (SAR) centres will be constructed in the other riparian counties along Lake Victoria (Busia, Siaya, Homa Bay, and Migori).

51. The Council of Ministers has designated the code 110 as an emergency rescue number within Lake and Kenya, and the Communications Authority has already operationalized the code.

3.4.1.4 Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin Project

52. The Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB) is a regional project implemented by LVBC in five Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda). The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change by building climate resilience. The implementation timeframe was from 28th June 2018 to 31st August 2023. The Budget was US\$5 Million. The project supported concrete adaptation interventions by piloting ecosystem-based Adaptation, Water Conservation, and climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices in selected climate hotspots in the LVB.

3.4.1.5 Project Achievements in Kenya

53. Projects were implemented in Siaya and Busia Counties, involving the provision of the following to local communities to enhance their coping capacities to Climate Change: boreholes, Fish cages, beekeeping, greenhouses, and Hatcheries, which were handed over to the local communities.

54. The LVBC is coordinating Partner States in preparation of the 2nd phase of this programme.

3.4.1.6 The Scale WAYS Project

55. Funded by the Austrian Development Agency, Scale WAYS received a grant of EUR 1.6 million (approximately EUR 0.433 million for LVBC). Initially, this was a three (3) years

research project (2019-2021), but it was extended to November 2022 and was further extended for four months with an additional Euros 20,000.

56. The goal of this project is to contribute to the resilience of land and water resources, the improved health of ecosystems, and human well-being in LVB through research. This was in response to the following threats:

- i. Rapid increase of population and economic growth;
- ii. degradation of the environment and ecosystem; and
- iii. The impact of projected climate change

57. The project was a soft intervention project that generated several reports based on studies conducted within the Lake Victoria Basin.

58. The duration of the project is five years, with a closing date set for 30th November 2025.

3.4.1.7 The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project

59. A World Bank-supported project of a US\$30 million grant to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). The project's development objective is to enhance mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin.

60. The specific objectives are to review and prepare recommendations to harmonize existing water quality management policies in the NEL sub-basin and develop a Regional Water Quality Management Strategy and Action Plan. The completed activities include:

- i. Regional Inception Workshop held in January 2023;
- ii. The stakeholder analysis and stakeholder engagement plan report were completed in April 2023;
- iii. Situational assessment undertaken (July – August 2023), report validated.
- iv. Draft harmonized policy on water quality management submitted to LVBC on 31st October 2023. The report was validated by a regional workshop from 27th to 28th November 2023;
- v. The draft final water quality policy was presented to the Sectoral Council in February 2024. One Partner State requested a one-month extension for the internal process, and;
- vi. External audit completed on 31st January 2024

3.4.1.8 Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Headquarters

61. The proposed LVBC Headquarters is designed as an ultramodern office complex with two distinct wings. The Partner States fully fund the project.

62. The Commission received its initial funding of USD 1.35 million in April 2019. A further USD 950,000 was received in June 2022 towards the second phase, and the final amount of USD 1.24 million was received in January 2024. For the first phase, the site was handed over in December 2020, and construction commenced in January 2021 and continued until 31st August 2022.

63. The Government of Kenya, through the State Department of Public Works, offered technical expertise to the project. The first contractor, *Tareef Enterprises LTD*, took over the site in December 2020, and construction commenced in January 2021 until 31st August 2022, when it was terminated due to poor workmanship. *JV China Jiangxi International* was awarded the contract for phase II, as well as to rectify and complete phase I. The site was handed over on 25 July 2023, and work progressed well.
64. The major construction works are now complete, and the building is ready for use after the installation of electricity. The LVBC has written to the SDEAC requesting the government's support in having the power connected to the building to enable them to move and occupy it.

3.4.1.9 Resource Mobilization Initiatives by the LVBC

65. The LVBC reported that they are continuing with resource mobilization efforts and have held discussions seeking support with the following organizations, among others:
- i. KfW mission in February 2024 for discussion on the next phase of support to the IWRM Program in LVB.
 - ii. IFAD to co-design a Climate Resilience Agricultural and Food Systems Investment Program for LVB
 - iii. African Development Bank (AfDB) designed a preparatory funding program on Transboundary Climate Resilient Agricultural Water- Food Nexus;
 - iv. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a joint project on implementing the Transboundary Mara River Basin Integrated Watershed, to be submitted to Global Environment Facility (GEF)

3.4.1.10 The Committee recommendations to the Assembly

66. The Committee made several recommendations to the Assembly (EALA), including commending the LVBC for its efforts in mobilizing resources for various programs aimed at developing the Lake Victoria Basin. Several recommendations to the Partner States to ensure the sustainability of Lake Victoria and its Basin as well as the capacity of the Lake to continue supporting the people living within the Basin.

3.4.2 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)

3.4.2.1 Introduction

67. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation was established by the Convention for the Establishment of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organizations signed on 30th June, 1994, by three Contracting Parties (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania).
68. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation aims at fostering cooperation among the Contracting Parties, harmonizing national measures for the sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the EAC water bodies, and developing and adopting conservation and management measures. Its Program areas include Fisheries Management and Development, Aquaculture Management and Development, Fisheries Resources

Monitoring and Research, and Fish Quality Assurance, Trade and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products.

3.4.2.2 Ongoing Projects for Food Security

3.4.2.2.1 European Union (EU)-EAC True Fish Project

69. The EAC's TRUE-FISH project, funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11) with a total grant of €10.15 million, aims to enhance aquaculture development in the EAC region. The primary goal of the project is to foster a competitive, inclusive, and sustainable commercial aquaculture sector that supports economic growth while ensuring the responsible management of natural resources within the Lake Victoria basin.
70. The project, which started in December 2018 for a five-year life, has been extended to end in December 2025 to allow for the organization of the World Aquaculture Safari 25 Conference, to take place in Uganda in June 2025
71. The EU-TRUEFISH project has catalysed sustainable aquaculture development in the Lake Victoria Basin by addressing barriers in business, skills, and sustainability, especially for the riparian counties of Migori, Homabay, Kisumu, Siaya, and Busia. Through capacity building, policy harmonization, and regional collaboration, it has strengthened livelihoods and biodiversity.

3.4.2.2.2 ECOFISH Program

72. Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the EA, SA, and the IO Region – ECOFISH Programme. The project, which began in 2020, was initially slated to end in September 2024 but has now been granted a one-year no-cost extension, extending its completion date to September 2025. The purpose of the project is to support the sustainable management and development of fisheries resources in Lake Victoria.
73. Projects under Development
- i. Community Fisheries Management & Sustainable Fisheries Project (LVFO, FAO, University of Iceland & EAC Partner States);
 - ii. Ecosystem Resilience and Restoration of Lake Victoria Basin and Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation Project (Ziwa Letu Project) > 10 million USD (LVFO, LVBC, UNEP, Regional Universities, MDAs, and Non-State Actors);
 - iii. Promoting climate change mitigation and food security in Lake Victoria fishery and aquaculture value chains (LVFO, FISH ASSOCIATIONS, and AfDB – USD 12 million).

74. These projects are at the proposal and concept development stage.

3.4.2.3 Contribution of Fish to Food Security and Economic Development

75. The EAC needs approximately 4.2 million tonnes of fish annually to meet the global per capita consumption of 21 kg, but only produces approximately 1.7 million tonnes, resulting in a shortfall of about 2.5 million tonnes.

76. The deficit in demand is being addressed through some initiatives as follows: -

- i. Operation Save Nile Perch (OSNP) program with a work plan for implementation from funds contributed by Partner States to LVFO. The program aims at protecting the Nile Perch from overfishing and the catching of immature fish.
- ii. Joint regionally synchronized enforcement operations to fight illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing took place in five stations, namely Kisumu, Homa Bay, Siaya, Migori, and Busia, from 26th August 2024 to 10th September 2024. This led to the arrest of substantial illegalities on the lake, including promoting compliance and awareness of stakeholders to work together to address issues affecting the sustainability of the fisheries resource for the benefit of the current and future generations.
- iii. Policy Guidance on *Rastrineobola argentea* (Omena) Fishery in Lake Victoria, aimed at improving quality, cost-effectiveness, and increasing profit for approximately 220,000 fishers from the riparian countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, is nearing completion.
- iv. Guidelines for implementation of the East African standards EAS 826 for sun-dried silver cyprinid (Omena). Guidelines are awaiting validation by September 15, 2025, to improve quality along the value chain for human consumption, as currently 70% of Omena ends up being used for animal feed.
- v. The Cage Fish Farming Policy 2022 guides the management and development of cage operations in the region, supporting improvements in fish production to bridge the shortfall.

3.4.2.4 Policies, Guidelines and Strategies that Enhance Food Security and Climate Change Resilience in the EAC

- i. The East African Community Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018;
- ii. The East African Community Cage Fish Farming Policy;
- iii. Strategic plans – The EAC Development Strategies - Latest 2021-22 – 2025- 26;
- iv. Fisheries Management Plans I, II, III, Latest IV (2021-2025); and
- v. Nile Perch Management plans I, II, Latest III (2021 – 2025)

77. These policies are at different stages of implementation by LVFO and Partner States.

3.4.2.5 Recommendations

- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVFO and the relevant Sectoral Council to fast-track the process of expanding the mandate of LVFO and the change of its name to enable the institution to operate throughout the region: *(under discussion – Partner States consultations took place and the validation is pending before a Multi Sectoral Council of Ministers meeting is convened to deliberate and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers. Kenya is opposed to the expansion of the Mandate beyond the Lake Basin, due to strategic National interests.*
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds for the delayed expansion of the LVFO headquarters in Jinja.

- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare and present before the Assembly the Bill for a law to operationalize the expanded mandate of the LVFO; (*issue of mandate is yet to be finalized – as in I above*)
- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct all Partner States to reimburse the VAT they collected from all organs and institutions of the Community; (*mainly affects the host country, Uganda*)
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare a regulation to enable organs and institutions of the EAC to claim a refund of VAT and other taxes when they undertake activities outside their hosting Partner States;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to invest more in fish farming to enable the EAC meet its expected demand of 4.5 million tonnes of fish per year; - (*Kenya through the State Department for Fisheries and Blue Economy has been promoting aquaculture*) and Urge the Council of Ministers to direct LVFO and Partner States to continue investing in modern technologies.

Committee observations

78. Members observed that there is a need for increased commitment from Partner States to enable institutions of the EAC to operate optimally for the benefit of the East African region.

Committee Resolution

Having examined the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the One-Spot Assessment of the Implementation of Projects by Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Lake Victoria Fisheries organization, the Committee on Regional Integration has adopted the Report on the proposal Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP, and seconded by Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP.

3.5 Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th - 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda

79. The Committee was taken through the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of Conducting National General Elections: 15th - 22nd May 2024, in Rwanda and Uganda as follows –

80. The report highlighted the various challenges faced by the National Electoral Commissions in conducting elections in Uganda and Rwanda, as well as the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution's observations and recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

3.5.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development Submissions

81. The objectives of the activity were to:

- i. Evaluate the electoral processes in the Republic of Uganda and Rwanda.
- ii. Identify the challenges encountered during the national general elections.
- iii. Appreciate the role played by the Electoral Commission; and
- iv. Make recommendations for strengthening electoral processes for the benefit of all Partner states.

3.5.2 Key observations from the oversight activity

82. The Committee noted the following:

- i. The EAC is founded on principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law, accountability, and transparency.
- ii. Credible elections are the cornerstone of democratic governance and are essential for regional peace, stability, and integration.
- iii. The critical areas for improvement to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections across the region, aligning with the fundamental principles of good governance enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community; and
- iv. Commendable practices and areas requiring urgent attention to enhance electoral integrity, foster inclusivity, and build public trust in the electoral processes within the respective Partner States and the region as well.

83. From the findings, the following policy directions can be explored to address the identified issues and foster an environment conducive to democratic, peaceful, and credible general elections in the region:

- i. Partner States to sustain ongoing reviews of their electoral laws and regulations to address inconsistencies and gaps identified in the EALA report. This includes reviewing provisions related to campaign financing, voter registration, dispute resolution mechanisms, and the role of security agencies, among others.
- ii. Implement measures that further ensure the operational, financial, and administrative independence of the respective National Electoral Commissions.
- iii. Inculcate continuous civic and voter education programs, targeting all segments of society, focusing on rights, responsibilities, and electoral processes.
- iv. Put in place enforcement of transparent campaign finance regulations, including expenditure limits and public disclosure requirements, to address monetization of politics.
- v. Enhance the existing forums and exchange programs for EMBs, parliamentary committees, and civil society organizations across Partner States to share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in electoral management.

- vi. Establish clear and continuous processes for voter registration, verification, and regular cleaning of voter registers to eliminate discrepancies, multiple registrations, and deceased voters.
- vii. Entrench political party responsibility through adherence to democratic principles within political parties, including in their primaries, and fostering inter-party dialogue and tolerance.
- viii. Encourage the adoption of appropriate and secure electoral technologies (e.g., for voter registration, biometric identification, and results transmission).
- ix. Implement targeted capacity building programs for EMB staff and commissioners on electoral management, technology, logistics, voter education, and dispute resolution.
- x. Implement affirmative action policies and initiatives to increase the participation of women and young people in all aspects of the electoral process, from voter registration to candidacy and election management.

3.5.2 Operationalization of the EAC Elections Observer Missions

84. The Community has a growing track record of deploying Election Observer Missions (EOMs) across its Partner States, contributing to the region's democratic development.
85. The EOMs are deployed in respective Partner States in line with the Community's obligation of enhancing good governance and a culture of democracy as enshrined in Article 6(d), 7(2), and 123 (3)(c) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.
86. Pursuant to the EAC Principles for Election Observation and Evaluation 2012, the objectives of the EAC Election Observation Missions are to:
- i. Identify strengths, opportunities, challenges, and weaknesses that can be harnessed into best practices and lessons for the region through peer learning by the electoral Management bodies.
 - ii. Assess the extent to which the electoral outcome reflects the will of the people in line with international, continental, and regional norms and standards governing democratic conduct of elections; and
 - iii. Make recommendations: to strengthen election processes for the benefit of not only respective Partner States but for the EAC region as a whole.
87. While challenges remain in ensuring the full implementation of recommendations and fostering truly level playing fields in all Partner States, the EAC Election Observer Missions have consistently demonstrated a commitment to promoting democratic ideals and played a valuable role in fostering greater transparency and accountability in the region's electoral landscape.

3.5.3 Observations on the Committee's recommendations to the Assembly

88. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds that will cover the whole Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to carry out electoral observer missions during elections within the region.

- (i) There is a need to strengthen the capacity and mandate of EAC Election Observation Missions to conduct comprehensive and independent assessments of national general elections.
 - (ii) This is dependent on the available budgetary provisions for the missions.
89. Urge the Secretariat to prepare and present before the Assembly the reports from electoral observer missions;
- (i) EAC Election Observer Mission reports are generally submitted to the Electoral Commission of the respective Partner State for consideration and implementation of recommendations, and the EAC Council of Ministers for noting.
 - (ii) While members of National Assemblies are sometimes included in observer missions, and the reports are relevant to their legislative oversight function, there is no consistent or mandated process for these reports to be formally submitted and debated in national assemblies across all EAC Partner States.
 - (iii) It's plausible that EAC Election Observer Mission reports could be discussed within EALA, especially concerning the broader principles of democratic governance within the Community.
90. Urge the Council of Ministers to urge Partner States to invest in modern technologies, and mostly to have national identification agencies link up with election management bodies to have an easy voter register update - an ongoing process in most Partner States, subject to the respective Electoral Management Body's capacity and budgetary provisions.
91. Urge the Council of Ministers to encourage Partner States to adopt electoral processes that promote the inclusiveness of youth, Persons with disabilities, and are gender-sensitive - an ongoing initiative in most of the Partner States.

Committee Observations

92. Members observed that the Select Committee on Regional Integration should be involved in election observer missions during elections in the East African Community partner states.
93. Consequently, the Parliamentary Service Commission needs to allocate funds that will enable the Committee to conduct electoral observer missions during elections within the region.
94. Further, Members observed that there are many lessons to learn from Rwanda, among them the preservation of a violence-free and peaceful environment witnessed during the entire election period, the voluntary initiative promoted during the electoral process where the youths assist in various activities of the electoral process voluntarily, as well as ensuring a gender sensitive and inclusive electoral process.

Committee Resolution

Having considered the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Oversight activity to assess the Processes, Regulations, and Challenges of conducting national general elections in Rwanda and Uganda from 15th to 22nd May 2024, the Committee adopted the report. Hon. Christopher Aseka proposed the adoption. Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP, seconded it.

3.6 Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

95. The Committee was briefed on the report of the Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN), which was established in 2019 to leverage the role of parliamentarians in advancing the region's food security and nutrition agenda.

96. The alliance consists of Members of Parliament from various Eastern African countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and representatives from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). The alliance aims to position food security and nutrition at the forefront of political and legislative discussions, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the broader development objectives of the member countries and regional economic communities (RECs).

97. The EAPA-FSN General Assembly Meeting was held at the Mövenpick Hotel & Residences in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenya National Parliament and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation). The event included three main activities:

- i. Technical Seminar: Focused on climate action, food systems, and nutrition. The seminar featured expert presentations and discussions among MPs on current legal and policy gaps, opportunities, and priority actions for advancing food systems transformation in the region.
- ii. Statutory Meeting: Addressed the statutory requirements of the EAPA-FSN, including reports from member countries, the adoption of recommendations, and the planning of future activities.
- iii. Field Visit: Participants visited various projects in Kiambu County, Kenya, to learn about successful agricultural practices that could be replicated in their countries.

98. The 2023 Eastern African Parliamentary Dialogue focused on exploring legal issues and parliamentary actions to strengthen the linkages between climate action and food system transformation. The specific objectives were:

- i. To sensitize Members of Parliament on the interconnections between diets, food systems, and climate change.
- ii. To discuss policy options and financing mechanisms to accelerate climate-smart food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.
- iii. To review the achievements, successes, challenges, and lessons learned by the EAPA-FSN and national alliances.

- iv. To deliberate on the conduct of the Alliance's affairs, including performance, challenges, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

99. Additionally, the 2023 GAM yielded several key recommendations aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition in Eastern Africa. These recommendations included:

- i. Committee Members were encouraged to create and support legal frameworks that facilitate the transformation of food systems and improve nutrition outcomes. This includes developing laws and policies that promote responsible investment in agriculture and ensure that the right to adequate food is realized. Committee Members were urged to advocate for increased funding for the agriculture sector. Despite commitments made in the Maputo Declaration, many African countries have not met the target of allocating 10% of their national budgets to agriculture. Increased investment is crucial to support sustainable agricultural practices and build resilient food systems.
- ii. Parliamentarians were encouraged to support sustainable climate-responsive agriculture practices and nature-based solutions. This includes promoting urban planning, energy transition, and early warning systems to mitigate the effects of climate change on food security and nutrition.
- iii. Committee Members were advised to engage with academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector in efforts to raise awareness among consumers about food choices and the benefits of consuming locally produced food. Collaboration with various stakeholders is crucial to creating a comprehensive approach to addressing food security and nutrition challenges.

100. The meeting highlighted the potential of agribusiness to create job opportunities for young people and to prevent urban migration. MPs were encouraged to support initiatives that empower youth in agriculture and to provide them with the necessary resources and training to succeed.

Recommendations by the EAPA-FSN 4th General Assembly

- i. Develop a Framework Law on family farming that countries can use to develop country specific legislation;
- ii. Support partner countries in developing Family Farming legislation or in mainstreaming Family Farming into agriculture-related policies, legislation, or strategies.
- iii. Induction of the new Members of EAPA FSN, especially on the information concerning their roles, such as Alliance vision and objective, rules and procedures of EAPA FSN organs, responsibilities, and partnership.

3.6.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development

101. The Ministry, in its submission on this matter, informed the Committee that the 2023 Eastern African Parliamentary Dialogue explored legal issues and key parliamentary

actions to foster linkages between climate action and food systems transformation in Eastern Africa.

Comment on the Recommendations of the Forum

102. The Ministry, in its submissions, informed the Committee that Family farming is a system of agriculture that is managed and operated by a family, typically characterized by the use of family labour and the cultivation of land that is owned or leased by the family. It encompasses a variety of farming practices, including crop production, livestock rearing, aquaculture, and agroforestry. Family farms are often small to medium-sized operations, playing a crucial role in food production, rural livelihoods, and the sustainability of agricultural systems.

103. Family farming is integral to the agricultural landscape of East Africa. It aligns closely with the EAC's commitments to enhancing food security, reducing poverty, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering regional cooperation and integration. By recognizing and supporting family farming, the EAC can make significant strides towards achieving its agricultural and food security objectives.

Committee Observations and Recommendations

104. The Committee observed that there is a need for Members of the Select Committee on Regional Integration to be involved in the activities of such regional alliances.

105. Members recommended the incorporation of a representative(s) of the Committee in the membership of such alliances that advance the integration agenda.

Committee's Resolution

The Committee resolved to adopt the Report of the EALA Report of the 5th East African Parliamentary Alliances for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN and General Assembly Meeting, 15th - 17th October, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya, having been proposed by Hon. Elizabeth Kailemia, MP, and seconded by Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP.

3.7 The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 and the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2024

106. The Committee was informed that the two bills had been passed.

3.7.1 Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development submissions

107. The ministry reported to the committee that:

- i. In addition to the USD 103,882,880 budget for the Community for FY 2023/2024, a supplementary budget of USD 11,148,996 was allocated, representing additional resources from Development Partners and other sources.
- ii. Among the critical areas covered and which have been fruitful is negotiation between EAC and the Federal Republic of Somalia, which is now a member

Partner State of EAC. Political Confederation-related activities (as contained in pages 4-9 of the main report) and construction of the LVBC Headquarters (USD 1,263,679)

- iii. A key challenge faced by the Community that impacts progress on the implementation of various programs and planned activities is the delay in the disbursement of Partner States' contributions to the EAC Budget. As of the financial year 2023/24, contributions were at 18%, with Uganda's contribution of USD 2.3 million standing at 33%, Rwanda's contribution of USD 873,000 standing at 12%, and Kenya's contribution of USD 7 million representing 100%. Burundi had offset its outstanding balance by USD 1 million. The emphasis, therefore, is on Partner States to honour their commitments as well as comply with the directive of the 45th Meeting of the Council to settle their outstanding contributions.
- iv. An appropriation of USD 112,984,442 was appropriated to meet expenditure for the Organs and Institutions of the Community for the Financial year ending 30th June 2025, as shown below:

EAC Secretariat	51,677,120
EACJ	4,858,553
EALA	20,469,040
LVBC	7,787,519
IUCEA	17,287,618
LVFO	3,109,586
EASTECCO	2,177,192
EAKC	1,641,445
EAHRC	2,451,157
EACA	1,525,212
TOTAL	112,984,442

108. Currently, the community is in an adverse financial situation that has affected the delivery of its mandate and the payment of statutory obligations, including staff salaries.
109. There is a concerted effort to have Partner States disburse their contributions due for FY 2024/2025 in line with EAC Financial Rules and Regulations, 2012, to facilitate implementation of the approved budget.

3.8. A Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi

110. The committee was taken through the Resolution of the Assembly Paying Tribute to the Late Hon Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi.
111. The report highlighted the assembly's tribute to Hon. Dr. Shogo Richard Mlozi, who joined the assembly in December 2022 to represent the United Republic of Tanzania for a five-year term in the 5th Assembly, from 2022 to 2027. She was a member of the

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism, and then the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution.

112. The assembly registered its appreciation to the Parliament of Tanzania and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for sending and electing the late Hon. Dr. Shogo Mlozi to the Assembly to make the enormous and invaluable contribution that she made to the East African Community until her untimely demise on 13th June, 2024, in Arusha, Tanzania.

4.0 COMMITTEE RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

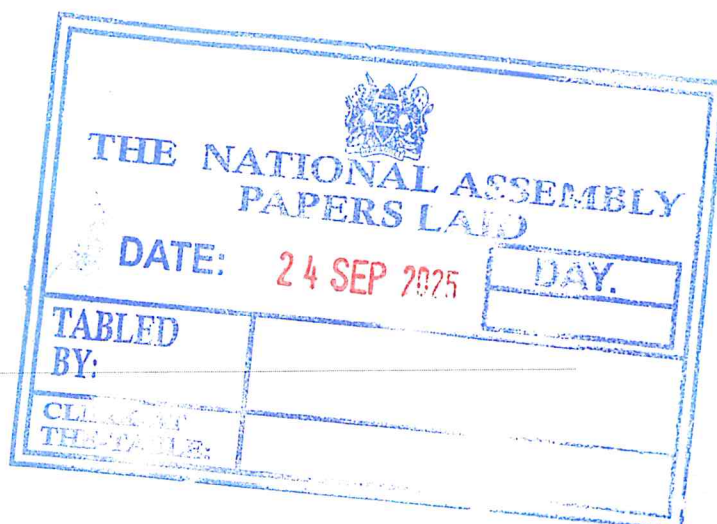
113. The Committee, having received input from the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development, made the following resolutions:

- i. The Committee recommends that the East African Legislative Assembly urge the Council of Ministers to ensure that Partner States contribute to the EAC budget based on their respective Gross Domestic Product (GDP), rather than the current formula where all Partner States contribute equally.
- ii. The Committee also recommended an amendment to Article 143 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community to ensure that sanctions can be imposed on Partner States that default in meeting their financial and other obligation under the EAC Treaty. This will lead to the enhancement of financial accountability and efficiency.
- vi. The Committee further recommended that the Assembly resolves that the implementation of the budget road-map shall be contingent upon the concerned Partner States honouring their financial commitments to the Community.
- v. The Committee tasked the Council of Ministers with convincing Partner States to provide political support for the success of the EAC, and to establish a precondition requiring any prospective new Partner to pay their financial obligations upfront before admission.

Signed: Date: 23/09/25

HON. (CS) MAYAKA IRENE NYAKERARIO, MP

(CHAIRPERSON)



ANNEXURES


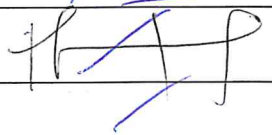

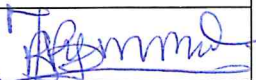
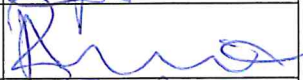
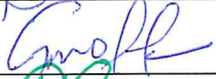
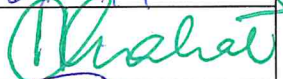
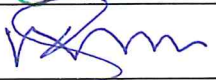
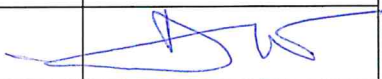

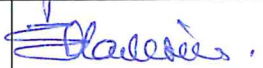


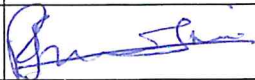
1. Adoption List
2. Committee Minutes
3. Presentations/Submissions by the East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development
4. Bills, Reports, and Resolutions transacted by EALA

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ADOPTION LIST

Adoption of the Report on the Businesses Transacted by the EALA at the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 5th Assembly from 23rd June - 4th July, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania

We the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

No.	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP- Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Farah Salah, MP – Vice Chairperson	
3.	Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP	
4.	Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP	
5.	Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP	
6.	Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP	
7.	Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP	
8.	Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP	
9.	Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP	
10.	Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP	
11.	Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP	
12.	Hon. Rael Chepkemoui Kasiwai, MP	
13.	Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP	
14.	Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP	
15.	Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP	
16.	Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP	
17.	Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP	
18.	Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP	
19.	Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP	
20.	Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP	
21.	Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP	