PAPERS LAID

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: (Ms) Florence Kajuju

Contribution she made on: Papers Laid

Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today Thursday, 1st September 2016:-

Report of the Select Committee on Regional Integration on its consideration of the East African Legislative Assembly Reports and Bills

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Muhia

Contribution she made on: The Public Fundraising Appeals Bill

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in this Bill. I was seeking some information from my friend Hon. Nyokabi. At the outset, this is a good Bill because politicians have mainly been misused. The spirit of *harambee* has been diverted and everything is *harambee* today.

I am bothered by who will implement this. During the last elections, the same law, though it was not very clear, said that *harambes* were not to be conducted eight months to the main elections. But you could still participate in the *harambees*.

I ask, through the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, if this can also appear in the Election Offences Bill like Hon. Chris Wamalwa has suggested. 

(*Loud consultations*)
Hon. Speaker, the Members are too loud. I cannot hear myself.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Muhia

Contribution she made on: The Public Fundraising Appeals Bill

Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Even though this Bill concerns every other Kenyan, it mostly concerns us as politicians. It is high time that we guide the country as leaders in terms of framework. We need to put in place a law that will provide guidance so that people do not just wake up today or tomorrow and decide to hold a harambee and yet, there is no transparency or integrity and it is during election time. Today, people compete about who gives more during harambees and who attends the most harambees.

It is so sad for us Members of Parliament representing counties because we have several constituencies to cater for. You can attend four harambees in one Sunday. By the fifth harambee, a master of ceremony (MC) says that so and so is not in this harambee which means that he or she does not need their seat. It is harassing, intimidating and we feel misused. You cannot be omnipresent and attend all the harambees. The perception on the ground is that you should be able to attend all the harambees.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill and urge Members to support it. We need a framework so that we can move this country in the right direction.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Public Fundraising Appeals Bill

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would be very hesitant in supporting this Bill in its current frame. I can see it is very futuristic because it looks at an ideal society where we have very few poor people, an effective Government which is properly structured and functional and in that futurist society there will be no need for fundraisers.

But, because we come from communities that are largely poor, most of them rely on fundraising. Unfortunately, we have very many unscrupulous people who have used this process of fundraising to con the public and especially leaders through fundraisings. There is no way any leader in Kenya can distance themselves from fundraising.

As we speak, I can give you the average deaths in Mbaita Constituency per weekend as a minimum of 15, totaling to about 60 people per month. There is no fund, NGCDF or otherwise that helps the public deal with the deaths. I have been in a situation where I was utterly shocked because there are times the public used to tell me, “Mhe. this is a very pathetic case.” I did not understand because some of us when we have Kshs.3,000 we burn it over a drink and do not think much of it.
Most of those people cannot afford money for a coffin, or a dress for the dead to be given a decent burial. There is one case that remains completely etched in my memory. As I was campaigning I was told there was somebody who had died up the hill. We climbed up there and she had been in her house for two days because there was no transport to take her to a morgue, there is nothing. To-date when I think about it, it was a very pathetic case. When dealing with that case, that is why I want to disabuse Hon. Mutambu when he says that in my community, we put fish and remove water.

The fishing communities are some of the poorest communities in this country especially because of dwindling stocks of fish and the changing policies on fisheries in Kenya. Aqua culture has moved to other parts of the country whereas our areas have been left to rely on nature. Nature is not very friendly. Indeed in the morning, I was cracking a joke on my face book page and said that “The Jubilee Government is utterly corrupt, they have even corrupted the weather, and today in Nairobi, the weather is completely cold.” It was on a light note but that is the reality we are living in.

We have very pathetic situations with extremely poor people and within that context you cannot have a structured fundraiser where you have a national and county office. I would have to add another role to my legislative role which is to seek permission from a national office for Mbita people every week. I have told you in Mbita I have 60 people dying per month and I am not exaggerating. Half of my salary goes to funerals. I am sure the Member who represents the county of Homa Bay, Hon. Gladys will tell you the same. We have a very high mortality rate. I am just talking about funerals; it is not realistic what we are providing here.

On the other hand, we are also faced with another challenge, sometimes I am called for 15 fundraisings in one weekend and the next weekend I have one or two. As an MP, I would really love it if we had a more structured way of assisting communities with fundraisings but not in the framework within which it is provided.

If you also look at Clause 20, it excludes MPs, MCAs and governors, but leaves the President and Deputy President, other officers and our own opponents who will be going around fundraising while you sit and watch. We did not come to watch buildings in Nairobi. We are politicians; my opponent will not be fundraising in Mbita while I pray like the Hon. Member has told us ‘God be merciful’. I am a Christian of both SDA and pentecostal extract. In both I am told to be very humble in giving. But, since I got into politics, I have learnt to put humility while fundraising because if I am humble God will be merciful to me but the public will not be equally as merciful as God. They will send me back home.

I must fundraise and say how much I have fundraised and given, if you are in the business of politics that is the reality in Kenya. We must say what we have given. If you are not saying it your opponent will be busy saying and the rest will say Mhe. is not helping us while others are helping us. We cannot pretend we are in competition while leaving others going ahead for us.

We understand the challenges the Senators are going through. The counties are extremely large and I really sympathise and empathise with them. If I can feel it as an MP who has a smaller geographical area, I know how much more they must be feeling with a wider geographical area. This is not the way to go about it. What they need to do is to persuade us. We have allowed them through this Parliament to have a little money to do some work. If that is not sufficient, they need to plead for more.
We cannot have a situation where we shot ourselves in the foot. I personally will not support it in its frame but I would wish to support it with absolute amendments providing a simpler structured way at the village level and constituency level at the highest. There is no reason of putting a fundraising committee at the county level. It should stop at the constituency level and should be less formal. If you are fundraising for money, why put a committee which you are going to pay? We need that money for fundraising. If the Government has so much money, it should put it in cash transfers.

This weekend I was in Mbita Constituency and the old men from Usawo to Ngodhe and everywhere in Mbita were asking me where the cash transfer of that area is. Give that money you want to pay this committee to elderly people, orphans and vulnerable children and to bursaries. We cannot put administrative structures to add money to people who are able while we leave poorer people. I will only support the Bill with amendments. Without amendments, I cannot support it.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairman, yesterday I indicated that in Parliament we play both legislative and political roles. Exercising my political role this afternoon, I withdraw all amendments to this Bill.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

I withdraw.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill
Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairman. You notice my proposed amendment was to insert the word “lake” which was erroneously omitted. Even in the previous clause it was something demeaning women. I get that a lot in the constituency. I will push these amendments later but for now I withdraw them.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairman. Again, it is on the same vein. This amendment was speaking to party discipline. In the same spirit, I withdraw.

(Proposed amendment by Hon. (Ms.) Odhiambo-Mabona withdrawn)

(Clause 2 agreed to)

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairlady. I am following you very keenly. However, I get confused when you mention Hon. Chepkong’a and he does not stand to move or drop his amendments. We get confused on whether to say yes or no.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairlady, you mentioned him so it is a bit confusing. Maybe you should proceed a little slowly so that we know when he has an amendment. I am following you.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

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DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Again, I had proposed some amendment that would encourage internal party discipline but in the spirit of collective agreement I withdraw it.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona

Contribution she made on: The Election Offences Bill

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairman. Again, it is on the same vein. This amendment was speaking to party discipline. In the same spirit, I withdraw.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Nyasuna

Contribution she made on: The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill

On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairlady.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Nyasuna

Contribution she made on: The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill
Hon. Temporary Deputy Chairlady, I request that you repeat Clause 5. There were a lot of consultations and we were unable to follow. Please, repeat Clause 5.
Meanwhile, the mood of the House is that we will not accept any amendments to these Bills. I would like to request the Chair of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to kindly drop his amendments in the spirit we had since the Election Offences Bill so that we dispense of this business.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Wahome

Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. May I join my colleagues to also thank you, your office together with the Speaker’s panel and the Leader of the Majority Party for showing a lot of devotion to the work of this House. Today, we had a very unanimous arrangement in this House on matters that ordinarily we would not have been in agreement.

On Monday, this week, I was at Nation Television station with Prof. Anyang-Nyong’o and Farah Mohammed and the question of whether we shall allow party-hopping came up for debate. Clearly there was disagreement and the opposing side led by Farah said that there is no way we can legislate against party-hopping and I agreed. Today, this House did not legislate against party-hopping as such. I think we put sense in the manner in which we carry out our nominations towards the elections time. I personally suffered manipulation and mistreatment during nominations in 2002 and 2007. I agree that I did party-hopping, skip and jump. The fact is that if we can prevent the reasons that disfranchise and make people feel badly treated and lack of free and fair nominations, we shall have given a blow to injustices during the primaries.

The country must know that the right to choose a political affiliation and party is still protected within the Constitution, so that Kenyans do not understand what we have done today as preventing them from making choice of the party. The media seems to be indicating that we have resolved there is no party-hopping. What we are saying is that make the choice of which party you want to associate with now. It is completely unfair--- In the last elections, after we conducted our nominations in Kandara, which I won with a landslide, the other five gentlemen and one lady except one joined other parties. This is malpractice. It is undemocratic. We hope that from now on we can put sense even to ourselves as aspirants so that we make choices early. There is time to deal with that because we have until possibly February or March for people to make their decisions and minds. I am against party-hopping after nominations.

I am sad because there were very good amendments proposed by Members, but because of the arrangement of this afternoon, those amendments have been withdrawn. I had two amendments and one of them was speaking to the question of production and distribution of materials before campaigns begin. Of course, it did not see light of the day. I withdrew it.

Hon. Speaker, I must respond, if you can give me a minute. Hon Junet has spoken to the question of gender equity and gender balancing during nominations and I think that he is quite
misinformed about Article 81 of the Constitution that says that any elective or appointive position should observe the gender principle. Maybe he does not understand inclusivity and marginalisation. When those---

**DATE: 1st September 2016**

**Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Wahome**

**Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment**

Hon. Speaker, indeed, the courts have expressed themselves on this question and Hon. Kaluma knows that. The courts have determined that Parliament has the onus of coming up with legislation. We should thereafter be looking at the adequacy or inadequacy of the legislation. Therefore, Parliament is failing this nation by continuously failing to come up with legislation. My colleague, Hon. Junet should understand when we talk about marginalization, equity and equality of persons, both men and women. His wife is very right to be on the side of coming up with legislation.

*(Loud consultations)*

Hon. Speaker, I am saying that his wife was very correct---

**DATE: 1st September 2016**

**Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona**

**Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment**

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I support the Motion. I am, however, disappointed with the caveman ideology espoused by one of our party leaders, Hon. Junet Mohammed. That ideology does not reflect the position of the party. The party has said that it is reforming on the issue of gender. In fact, we are the largest party in this country with only one woman elected as Member of the National Assembly. We cannot be moving in that direction. I am going to report him to the party leader.

*(Loud consultations)*

Hon. Speaker, when our party leader directed that we move in one direction, we did so. The party leader is very positive about gender issues. So, we cannot have Hon. Junet going against that position. *Jakom* has spoken!

**DATE: 1st September 2016**

**Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Odhiambo-Mabona**

**Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment**

Hon. Speaker, you will add me one minute because that was not a point of order; it was a point of argument. In fact, that is what differentiates between a lawyer and a pedestrian like Hon. Junet
Mohammed. I would like to tell him that it is fortunate that I am standing in Mbita. If one would be allowed to stand anywhere, I would have dealt with him perpendicularly in Migori and then he would have known the power of women.

(Laughter)

This is because I floored several men and he is mince meat before me. I could deal with him in Migori.

Hon. Speaker, the law that we have passed today on elections is a two-edged sword. I have heard people say that it is historic and so on. It will be historic when it comes back to bite you. Let us remember, those of us who are speaking on democracy, that this law helps in democracy. However, we should not be selective when we stop party-hopping. We should stop party-hopping at all times so that we do not have people that Hon. A.B. Duale refers to as party-hopping without landing. If you have come to this Parliament through a party, you should stay true to that party until the end. You should not be moving towards different parties.

The way we have couched this law is that we are only allowing people towards the end. Intelligent persons know what that really means – Everybody is trying to consolidate their base and push people in one direction. I want to encourage our parties to promote internal party democracy. If we live true to the words of our national anthem--- I am glad that during the summer Olympics in Rio people really celebrated our national anthem. Some people were saying that we do not understand the words of our national anthem. However, it sounds so beautiful and it is because it is a prayer. If only Kenyans could live true to the words of our national anthem, Kenya would be an excellent place. God chose this country as a very special one but we are taking away that rightful place because we made a prayer to God and we are not staying true to it.

I encourage Hon. Junet as we go on recess and Hon. Wamunyinyi who is part of our coalition to promote gender equality and equity.

Hon. Speaker, I speak as a woman elected and fought against men. I support my fellow women because I know that even as I speak one of the amendment I brought is that--- As I go doing serious projects others are busy calling me Lor. Lor is a woman who has no child. Do I need to have children to be elected? In fact, I am very effective because I have no children. The ones busy running getting children are not doing an excellent job as I am. I brought Assisted Reproduction Bill here. By the time I am 100 years old, I will be unleashing children the way I want because I brought a Bill that allows me to. I support.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Tobiko

Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. I stand to support the Motion for Adjournment. It has been a long and intensive session. It is good to have this break to go and interact with our constituents and continue with development in our constituencies.

Today, we have behind us very sensitive Bills: the Election Laws Bill, the Election Offences Bill and the entire Report of the Select Committee also behind us. We are done with it. Now that it is over and headed to the Senate, it will not cause jitters for our political leaders. At least if we cannot have our way, we can have our say. This House has risen above its own self-interest and
self-perpetuation. The ball is now on the court of those who lead the political parties to make them more democratic. Nobody hops from one party to another just for the sake of it. People do that for the sake of survival including myself. I remember just two weeks to the elections of 2013, I was in the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD). I thank God that I jumped ship. I was in ODM and I thank God I jumped. They did not believe a woman can make it for a political position in a conservative community like the Maasai. We proved them wrong. I thank Jubilee for giving me a chance. By giving me that chance, we made history.

A number of Members are making jokes about gender representation in this House. I wish the women of this country can now take note that the same people they elected have come to trivialise matters to do with gender. They can now go ahead and elect women so that we stop being a laughing stock in this House. I remind our colleagues here that we may be few but a number of us including Hon. Millie Odhiambo and Hon. Alice Wahome from Kandara Constituency contested with men and we floored them. We are going to floor them again. Actually, I cannot wait to reach 8th August, 2017 to prove to those men and to the doubting Thomases that we can do it again. The development we have done in our communities will definitely bring us back. I want to sit down in order to give a chance to somebody else. I was not able to contribute to the Public Fundraising Appeals Bill. We should encourage people to continue contributing to society in the building of churches and other social issues according to their own will. We have always held Harambees to address very urgent and needy situations. I have a constituent who has gone to India for a kidney transplant and we had to contribute around Kshs4.7 million. There was no way this guy would have raised that amount on his own—-

**DATE: 1st September 2016**

**Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Mitaru**

**Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment**

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance. I will be very brief because we have spoken about most of these issues.

I would like to thank you, Hon. Speaker for working hard for this nation. I know there are many people who would want to know how the Speaker succeeds in helping parties in Parliament. You have been very good and so has been the rest of the leadership of this House.

It is good that we are going for a break it being the final year before the elections. We have passed many laws in this 11th Parliament. Indeed, you have helped very many people. When I go to my village I realize that many people do not understand what we have gone through. I would like to request Members of Parliament to go and speak to our people about the work we are doing here and moreso the laws that we have passed on their behalf.

I would also like to thank the Head of State and the Deputy President for the time they have been working very hard through the Committees of Parliament and yourself. We congratulate all of you because we know that if we continue this way, Kenya will be a better country in Africa and the world. Many people will be coming to Kenya to copy what we have done.

I am a woman and mother. I have been serving this nation from the days of my youth. I know that women have not been given the opportunity to go out and work in Government, especially in Parliament. I have been to countries like Rwanda where development has picked so fast
because women are the majority in Parliament. I plead with you, Hon. Speaker, that you push for the participation of women not only in Parliament, but any leadership position in this country. It is sad that most chiefs in this country are men. Heads of departments in Government Ministries are men. Here in Parliament it is just men and men. We know that women are also good leaders.

I am happy because of the law that we passed today. When we go for nominations every political party should do the right thing. Many times we bring weaker people to contest with others. Parties need to look for the best people. Even if it means going for training, we should do so in order to identify the best in our parties.

I wish you, Hon. Speaker, a nice break. Even when you are far away, remember that your people are here. We may be your agemates, older or younger than you but you are still our dad in this House. As we pray for you, we also pray for the President and all the other leaders of this nation.

May the Lord bless you. Thank you.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Munene

Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Motion and the laws we have passed today. We thank God because everybody in this world knows Kenyans are one people. We thank you very much for your kindness and guidance as we do our work in Parliament. I am happy today because our leaders sat down and thought about this country and not themselves. Previously when we did not have strong parties, people would hop from party to party and we would suffer a lot. I am one of the people who suffered. Kenyans must be strong and know that when you believe in yourself and in God, there is nothing you cannot do. It is good that we passed the law without fearing the consequences. Party nominations should be free and fair because we are all equal. It should not matter whether you know somebody or not. People used to think that Members of the 11th Parliament fight all the time because we would always be seen arguing with each other. Today, Kenyans have seen that we can work together, whether we like each other or not, because we are one and we care about this country. Our enemies have nothing to say because tourists still come to this country. People who would laugh at us can now see that this Parliament has grown up. They know we are here to serve our people.

Even as we go on recess, we will serve our people and interact with them while engaging in our projects. We would like to request that funds from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund be disbursed so that we can begin working on our projects.

I would like to thank our leaders and tell them that we are praying for them. In 2017, nobody will run out of the parties because they will be strong and we will be equal. As we head to the elections, this is not the time for us to quarrel or fight each other. In areas where fighting has started, we want the Government to intervene. There is no need for people to fight each other.
We passed a defence cooperation agreement with Britain. The colonialists who came to this country and mistreated our people can now see that we have grown up. We are strong women. Women out there who are thinking about vying for positions should go ahead and compete against the men. There is nothing a man can do that a woman cannot do. I pray to God that when we come back for the next session, we will be strong and firm. We should think about our fellow Kenyans. We should not think about our parties but instead think about where our country is headed to. We should think about the people at the grassroots who wake up very early in the morning to line up to vote so that they can have good laws.

May God bless each and everybody. Hon. Speaker, I know the work that you have done. God said that He will pay you a double portion. May God bless you and your family.

DATE: 1st September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Machira

Contribution she made on: Motion for Adjournment


SPECIAL SITTING

DATE: 20th September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Otucho

Contribution she made on: Delayed Disbursement of National Government Constituencies Development Fund

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I was surprised that the Chair did not mention anything about the constituencies that have not received their money. Referring to what Hon. Onyura has just mentioned, I am expecting more than half of the allocation for Teso South for the last financial year. Most of projects in the constituency have stalled. I have just come from my constituency and it is not pleasing to see some students still learning under trees yet I had budgeted for the construction of classrooms in those particular schools. When the Chairman comes this afternoon, he should categorically tell us when we will receive our money. Before we talk about the ceilings and proposals for the current financial year, can we receive our money for the last financial year? It will be fair for all of us to be at the same level of disbursement before we move to the next financial year.

DATE: 20th September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Otucho

Contribution she made on: Motion On Ratification of The Economic Partnership Agreement

Thank you, Hon. Speaker for this opportunity.

DATE: 20th September 2016

Member of Parliament: Hon. (Ms) Otucho

Contribution she made on: Motion On Ratification of The Economic Partnership Agreement

He will reply after I have made my contribution since I have the Floor.
Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will go right away and give my comments. This is a very important Motion. I would like to start by giving the status that currently Kenya enjoys quota-free duty-free access under the EU Market Access Regulation. What is at stake is that we are on notice. By 30th September we need to have ratified this particular Agreement. If we do not ratify, we stand to lose market for our exports in the EU. Just to illustrate how important this Motion is, Members, if you remember in 2014 when the EAC/EU, EPA negotiations failed to meet the stipulated deadline, Kenya lost free market access and therefore we incurred huge losses to the tune of Kshs1 billion. It was until December that it was reinstated. When we were reinstated to free access, it was on condition that Kenya was going to rally under East African countries to sign or ratify this particular Agreement.

That takes me to my next point which has already been alluded to by other Members. I just want to emphasise that this particular Agreement opens new areas for Kenyan exports. If you look at situational analysis from Page 22 to Page 28, you will realize that in those tables, there are huge opportunities that Kenya could tap into. I want to make reference especially to trade in chilled fish where the extra EU imports are so huge. When you look at the total EU market, it is at 5,249 Euros, but 4,443 are extra EU exports. Kenya’s share in the particular imports is just about 1.16 Euros, while for a country like Morocco it is 54.25 Euros. This is a challenge even to us legislators. There is so much opportunity, which will guide us on where to redirect our resources and where to invest. Other Members have mentioned the need for us to create employment. Most of our youths are getting the knowledge and skills. We are investing so much in institutions such as training technical institutes. Where are we taking the youths who graduate from those institutions? These agreements present an excellent opportunity for investments for our youth, women and business people who would want to run private investments. In addition, this will promote industrialization.

Most of the issues have already been mentioned. However, I would like to add that it also provides for trade remedies agreement which will prevent dumping. We have talked about so many goods being brought into this country from other countries such as China. In this particular Agreement, if goods that enjoy huge subsidies in the country of origin find their way into this country, those goods will be subjected to high taxes in this country. That way, we will make our goods more competitive. This is a very important Bill and I would like to urge all Members to support it. I also would like to appeal to other East African partner states to fast-track the process. Some of them like Tanzania have asked for more time to read and understand the Agreement. That was not too much to ask for. They were granted that time, but they need to read through and give it the necessary and urgent consideration that it requires. As Kenyans we need to approve this Bill failure to which it will cost us, for we stand to lose business. We stand to lose 70 per cent of exports worth Kshs90 billion and investments worth Kshs200 billion. We will fail this country if we do not ratify this Agreement at this point in time.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I support.