



National Assembly

MEDIA BRIEFING

**On the recently concluded 6th Session of the 3rd Pan African
Parliament 3 June 2015, Constitution Room – 11H00**

Colleagues,

Members of the Media,

The 6th Session of the 3rd Pan African Parliament was held from 18 – 29 May 2015, in Midrand, South Africa and was attended by five Members of Parliament from each of the African Union Member States.

Official Opening

The session was officially opened by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who informed the Members that despite all the problems Africa is faced with, he believes the continent will achieve prosperity, freedom and dignity which are the birth rights of all citizens of the world.

With regard to the issue of regional integration that is encountering challenges, misunderstandings and pitfalls, the President said that through all these obstacles the continent has learnt that history that holds us together, and the benefits of working together, are far more important than divisions. Africa has exceeded the expectations of not only critics, but also our supporters.

Towards achieving regional integration under the East African Community (EAC) framework, the President said Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, undertook to work on four important areas of cooperation, namely a Customs Union, a Common Market, a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation. They succeeded in establishing the Customs Union, and the implementation of the Common Market is ongoing. In November 2013, they signed a protocol establishing the East African Monetary Union. Other achievements of the East Africa Region that the

President highlighted are; One Area Network Project, which means there are no roaming charges on mobile telephone calls in the region, common tourist visas; harmonising of university fees and curriculums. These are the good examples of commitments that can drive Africa towards reintegration of the whole continent.

On the exportation of raw materials from the continent, the President was of the opinion that the practice should be discouraged. Africa must use its resources here on the continent to create jobs for its young people who are succumbing to death while busy crossing the Mediterranean Sea in search for job opportunities in Europe.

President Kenyatta expressed his support for the Pan African Parliament and informed the Members, that the Kenyan National Assembly has passed and ratified the protocol that is giving Legislative Powers to PAP and that he will sign the protocol soon, thus making Kenya the second country after Mali to ratify the protocol. He equally implore upon the rest of the African Member States to speed up the ratification of the Protocol.

President Kenyatta, concluded his address by urging African leaders to take the opportunity granted to them by the African people and rededicate themselves to the liberty, prosperity and the dignity of the continent's people. He indicated that upon doing this there will be no force that can, or will hold Africa back.

Discussions during the Plenary Session of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Third Pan African Parliament

1. Peace and Security in Africa

The Pan African Parliament debated the Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa.

The report highlighted violent conflicts, the scourge of terrorism, violent extremism, transnational criminality and human trafficking. The alarmed acts of violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect against the civilian population, the issue of the decolonisation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, and the emerging situation in Burundi.

After a lengthy discussion on the Report, the Pan African Parliament;

Recommended that;

1. The AU strengthen the capacity of all its organs and mechanisms that it already has in place in order to enable them play a preponderant role in the prevention of conflicts in Africa;
 2. All Member States sign, respect and implement all the AU instruments relating to peace, security and good governance, in particular, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
 3. The African Union encourage Algeria to pursue mediation between the Malian parties in order to put an end to the violence and ensure a return to security throughout the territory for a just and lasting peace in Mali;
 4. The African Union, through its organs tasked with the promotion of peace and security work together with stakeholders as well as civil society organisations to support the efforts aimed at resolving the Boko Haram crisis and evaluate priorities and needs of affected peoples and countries;
 5. The African Union invite all Member States to strengthen their capacity in the fight against illegal arms trafficking which continues to sustain wars in Africa;
 6. The current peace efforts deployed by the African Union with the support of the United Nations and other institutions be intensified with a view to eradicate terrorism on the continent.
2. **The Pan African Parliament** strongly condemns the reoccurrence of Xenophobic attacks against fellow African citizens living in South Africa. These Xenophobic attacks are a clear manifestation that the dream of African Unity remains elusive and undermine the many years of struggle and sacrifices made by the Founding Fathers of the African Union for continental integration, solidarity and unity. ***The Pan African Parliament*** call upon the Government of the Republic of South Africa to ensure protection of lives and properties of all people residing in South Africa, and that those responsible for inciting or perpetrating these criminal activities are made to face the full wrath of the law.

The diversity of challenges including the conflicts in Libya, Somalia, Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo and conventional security issues such as insurgencies and the violent extremism in Nigeria and Kenya also needs to be addressed. With regard to the crisis in Burundi, the Pan African

Parliament urges leaders and stakeholders in Burundi to engage in a genuine dialogue and consensus that will lead to peace and stability. PAP reiterates the call by the African Union on the need for Burundians to work within the framework of Burundi's Constitution and in the spirit of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, and to respect fundamental human rights and end all acts of violence and intimidation.

3. **The Pan African Parliament** also abhorred the despicable act of terrorism by the Al-Shabaab terror group at the Garissa University College in Kenya on 2 April 2015. This act left approximately 147 people dead and over 100 others wounded, PAP ***expressed*** solidarity to the Government of Kenya and the families of the students, police officers and tutors who lost their lives and those who survived the attack and ***Called upon*** the international community to technically and materially support the Government of Kenya and other Governments especially in the Horn of Africa, including the Government of Somalia in securing the region from the threat of terrorists.

4. **Presentation by H.E. Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the African Union High Level on the Report on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa**

The Pan African Parliament debated the Report of African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa which was tabled by H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the Panel.

During 2011, the African Ministers responsible for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, jointly convened by the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, identified the Illicit Capital Outflows as constituting a major obstacle to Africa's developmental efforts. A High Level Panel was constituted to investigate and make recommendations about what Africa should do, to stop these Illicit Financial Outflows.

The Pan African Parliament debated on the report and raised its concerns that the continent continues to lose annually over 50 billion US Dollars through Illicit Financial Outflows. This figure excludes elements such as trade in service and intangibles as well as proceeds of bribery and trafficking in drugs, people and fire-arms. Looking at the findings of the panel, the bulk of Illicit Financial Flows out of the

continent, 60 per cent or more is derived from the activities operated by the large commercial companies. Other sources include criminal activities such as drug trafficking, which account for 30 per cent and corruption which accounts for 10 per cent. These factors have contributed to a situation whereby many African countries do not have sufficient capital to finance targeted interventions so as to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). The report also concluded that many African countries lack the capacity to combat Illicit Financial Flows and made various recommendations in this regard.

After a lengthy discussion on the Report, the Pan African Parliament;

Recommended that;

1. More effort is needed in stimulating and expediting the process of asset recovery and repatriation;
2. The Illicit Financial Flow issues need to be incorporated and better coordinated across the United Nations processes and frameworks;
3. It is imperative that the various national parliaments on the continent thoroughly debate the Report on the African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows in order to chart a way forward in addressing this challenge which had aggravated poverty and underdevelopment in Africa; and
4. Pan African Parliament serve as an ambassador for the scrupulous implementation of the Report through whatever legitimate means it has at its disposal.

5. Election of the new Members of the Bureau

The term of the Third Bureau of the Pan African Parliament ended on the 28th May 2015, and the Assembly elected the new Members for the Bureau of the Pan African Parliament. They are as follows;

1. Hon. Roger Nkodo from Cameroon, representing the Central Africa Region, as the President;
2. Hon. Eduardo Joaquim Mulémbwé from Mozambique, representing the Southern Africa Region – as the First Vice President;

3. Hon. Dr Ashebir W/Gayo from Ethiopia, representing the East Africa Region – as the Second Vice President;
4. Hon. Suilma Hay Emhamed El Kaid from Sahrawi, representing the North Africa Region – as the Third Vice President;
5. Hon. Bernadette Lahai from Sierra Leone, representing the West Africa Region – as the Fourth Vice President.

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