

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF
STATE;

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UGANDA;

YOUR EXCELLENCY, UHURU MUIGAI KENYATTA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA;

YOUR EXCELLENCY, SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH SUDAN;

YOUR EXCELLENCY HONOURABLE SAMIA HASSAN SULUHU, VICE-PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND OUR HOST;

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY;

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE, JUDGE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF
JUSTICE;

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

HONOURABLE MINISTERS/CABINET SECRETARIES;

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, AMBASSADOR
LIBERAT MPFUMUKEKO;

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY;

EXCELLENCIES THE AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;

DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF EAC ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS;

DISTINGUISHED PERMANENT / PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES;

DISTINGUISHED EAC PARTNER STATES DELEGATES,
ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

1. It is my distinct honour and privilege to meet your Excellencies at this occasion of the
Twenty-first Summit of East African Community Heads of State.

2. Let me begin by giving thanks to Almighty God who enabled us to reach this day, as we meet to discuss about our Community. May he be praised in all his greatness and may he give us the strength and necessary courage to carry out our meeting successfully.

3. I would first like to extend to Your Excellencies, the Heads of State of the East African Community Partner countries and to the peoples of your respective Countries, the most cordial greetings on my own behalf and on behalf of the Burundian people.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the new Chair of the EAC Summit of Heads of State, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, and the new Secretary General of the East African Community Honourable Peter MATHUKI and assure them of our support.

4. Allow me to use this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Dr Pombe John Magufuri and the one of Zanzibar Hon Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, the Zanzibaris, and all Tanzanians, at the demise of the Zanzibar's First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad.

At the same time permit me to extend also my deepest condolences to the Government and the people of the Republic of South Sudan, at the demise of Honourable Mou Mou Athian Kuol, Undersecretary for the East African Community Affairs.

May their souls rest in eternal Peace!

5. I avail also myself of this opportunity to congratulate your Excellency Dr Pombe John Magufuri the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and your Excellency Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI, President of the Republic of Uganda for having conducted peaceful elections in your respective countries.

6. On the occasion of this Twenty-First Summit of the East African Community Heads of State in which I am taking part for the first time, I am really delighted to be with you my fellows, Heads of State and Government, in order to contribute towards guiding the advancement of the Community agenda.

7. It is, indeed, a precious and memorable moment when we feel closer to one another through Video Conference, a time to reflect together on the integration agenda, various Projects and Programs of the East African Community and, above all, a time when we provide recommendations on the evolution and direction to be taken on current issues that are strategic and of vital importance to our Community.

8. I would like to commend the step already reached and, at the same time, stress that there is still plenty of work to be achieved that awaits us, in order to make the people of the East African Community "one people, one destiny" as stated in the motto of the East African Community.

9. Some Analysts and Experts believe that the East African Community is a model of integration. Therefore, as member of this Community, we are proud of this performance. We must maintain that image and ensure that it resounds around the world.

10. In the same vein, we are pleased to note that neighbouring countries are asking to join our Community. This is a telling sign that, once again, as a community, we are doing our best for its international prestige. We must maintain this course, this direction and this pace in order to reach the highest stages of integration.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Our Community needs the contribution of each and every one to make sure that project and programs of the East African Community, which concern the political, economic and social sectors, are fully implemented if we are to achieve tangible results. Consequently, the Council of Ministers is called upon to supervise the implementation of these projects and programs in a more critical way, and to ensure that they are implemented in a non-discriminatory way in all the Partner States of the East African Community. Therefore, we will all be strong and we will indeed move forward as a block.

12. We must remember that our Community has engaged in various impressive activities, some of which deserve to be highlighted; in particular the operationalization of the Single Customs Territory and the Common Market, the establishment of Institutions and the implementation of National Public Finance Management Programs in order to meet the economic requirements for the establishment of the Single Currency in 2024, the launch and start of the issuance of the Electronic Passport of the East African Community since January 2018 and the Common Higher Education Zone of the East African Community, to name just a few.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. It is vital that we constantly concentrate our efforts in favour of Peace and Security, and that we stand in solidarity in the fight against Terrorism, Piracy and Transnational Crime. This is extremely important today, and even more so tomorrow, because our ultimate goal as citizens of the East African Community is to achieve a Political Federation. We sincerely hope that the transitional phase of Confederation, which we consider beginning soon, will not prevent us from finally achieving a Political Federation, as stipulated in the Treaty establishing the East African Community.

14. The Republic of Burundi is determined to advance any constructive contribution leading to Peace, Stability and Development of its citizens.

15. Today, peace is a reality in Burundi. This is evidenced by the last elections of 2020, which we successfully organized with our own funds for the first time, as well as the massive return of refugees who responded to the call that I launched to them upon my inauguration.

I call on our Burundian compatriots who are still hesitant to return to their country of origin, to come and join their families in order to contribute to the construction of their Nation and the East African Community.

16. Finally, I firmly believe that being together as East Africans will greatly facilitate the transformation of the Community toward the achievement of effective integration. Together, our dreams will become a reality.

Long live the East African Community,
Long live the International Cooperation,
God bless you all,
Thanks for your kind attention.