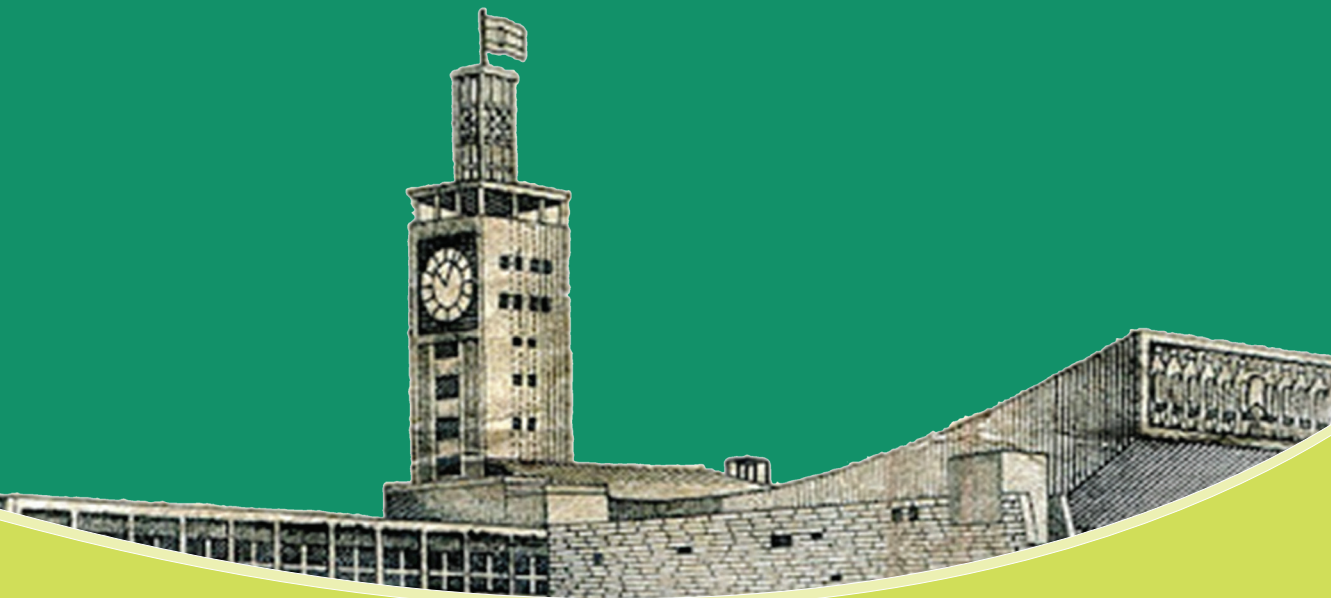




Parliament of Kenya

The National Assembly

Directorate of Committee
Services



Fact Sheet
No. 12

Directorate of Committee Services

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FactSheet 12: Directorate of Committee Services

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Acknowledgements

This Factsheet on the **Directorate of Committee Services** is part of the Kenya National Assembly Factsheets Series that are supposed to enhance public understanding, awareness and knowledge of the work of the Assembly and its operations. It is intended to serve as easy guide for ready reference by Members of Parliament, staff and the general public. The information contained here is not exhaustive and readers are advised to refer to the original sources for further information.

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FactSheet

12

Directorate of Committee Services

Introduction

This Factsheet looks at the roles and functions of the Directorate of Committee Services. The directorate was established in 2012 as part of the restructuring of the operations of Parliament initiated by the Parliamentary Service Commission aimed at improving service delivery.

The Directorate of Committee Services is the administrative service that offers support to the Members of Parliament who are members of the various Committees of the National Assembly. The activities of the Directorate relate to budgeting for Committees, preparation of Committee meetings schedules, procedural advice to Chairpersons of Committees with regard to Committee business, among other roles.

Functions of the Directorate of Committee Services

The functions of the directorate include: -

1. Support to committees of the House

The Committee Office provides administrative support to committees, supporting the conveners and members in undertaking the full range of committee functions including the conduct of inquiries and the consideration of subordinate legislation and Bills.

2. Providing Procedural Advice

The Directorate is responsible for guiding and providing non-partisan advice to committees on application of procedures in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders and established Parliamentary procedure and practice including



A Sitting of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs

advising Committee members of possible procedural implications arising out of suggestions made in committees.

The directorate also advises the Chairpersons of various committees on any matter that requires their attention.

3. Custody of records

The Directorate of Committees Services keeps custody of records of the activities of the committees of the National Assembly. It maintains records of all proceedings of Committees including minutes of meetings, reports, papers presented by ministries and state departments, memorandum and written evidence by witnesses in conformity with the House's rules prescribed in the Standing Orders.

4. Provision of Human Resource

The Directorate provides non-partisan professional secretariat staff, research and administrative support and advice to the committees of the House including joint committees of the two Houses.

The directorate keeps abreast of major procedural developments in other jurisdictions regarding committees work.

5. Liaising with ministries and other institutions

The Directorate of Committees Services liaises with Accounting Officers of



A Sitting of the Public Investments Committee

Ministries, Departments and Agencies with regard to issues/inquiries before committees such as response to issues raised by the Auditor General, petitions, questions, regulations among others.

The directorate also liaises with other legislative bodies and the public by responding to inquiries on the activities of the Committees and engaging them on the legislative process.

6. Ensuring public participation

The Directorate in line with Article 118 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 ensures that the public participates in the legislative process of National Assembly through publication in the media and parliamentary website of matters before Committees for public information and for the attention of witnesses.

The directorate facilitates Committees in undertaking public participation and inquiries including aiding the members of the public in accessing committees and making submissions on issues under consideration or inquiry by Committees of the National Assembly.

7. Coordination and supervision of committees

The directorate coordinates and supervises the functions and operations of Committees of the National Assembly ensuring that the committees, being the engine of Parliament, operate within their mandates and are properly facilitated to perform their oversight function effectively and efficiently.

8. Capacity Building

The Directorate ensures that Members of Parliament are inducted and continuously trained in light of the ever changing political and democratic space.

The directorate coordinates all activities, including travel and accommodation arrangements for itinerant Committees during benchmarking visits and attendance and participation in relevant International Conferences.

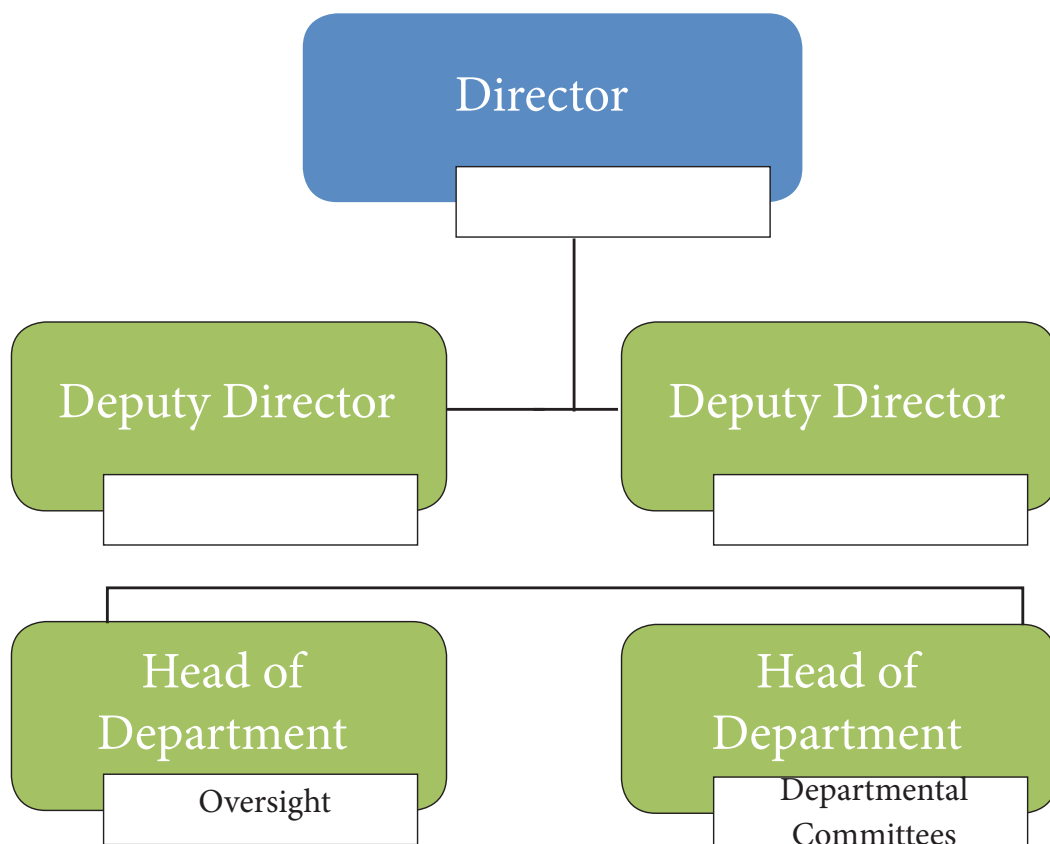
9. Administrative role

The Directorate ensures that committees perform optimally and that resolutions are followed by:-

- a) Preparation and circulation of agenda for committee meetings;
- b) Recording minutes of Committee proceedings;
- c) Correspondence between the committees and any appropriate authority;
- d) Preparing draft annual and special reports of the committees;
- e) Arranging and ensuring attendance of witnesses;
- f) Budgeting, mobilization of resources and planning for Committees;
- g) Conducting research for committees;
- h) Preparing briefing materials for Committee sittings

10. Performing any other duties as directed by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

Organogram of the Directorate of Committee Services



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