



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT- (FIFTH SESSION)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

_____ (No.056 of 2021) _____

(Convened vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 14165 of 24th December, 2021)

**ON THE CONVOCAATION OF SPECIAL SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF WEDNESDAY, 29TH DECEMBER, 2021**

Honourable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you to the Special Sittings of the House of today, which have been convened pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 29 relating to the procedure for convening of Special Sittings of the House during recess.

Indeed, **Hon. Members**, I wish to report to the House that on **23rd December 2021**, the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly **received two requests**, requesting for convening of Special Sittings of the National Assembly to consider certain urgent business. One letter was received from the Leader of the Majority Party and the other from the Leader of the Minority Party. While the request of the Leader of the Minority Party mentioned the consideration in Committee of the whole House and Third Reading of the *Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 56 of 2021)* as the reason for the *Special Sittings*, the request of the Leader of the Majority Party also included the said Bill as well as the consideration at Second Reading, Committee of the whole House and Third Reading of the *Public Procurement and Assent Disposal (Amendment) Bill, (National Assembly Bill No. 32, of 2021)* as the business to be transacted at the *Special Sittings*.

Honourable Members, in keeping with parliamentary practice and taking cognizance of the fact that the business specified to be transacted is sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, the Speaker could only honour his request. Consequently, and in keeping with the requirements of Standing Order 29, I did Gazette the Special Sittings of the House of today vide Kenya *Gazette Notice No. 14165 of 24th December, 2021*. **In this regard, the Special Sittings of the House of today are properly convened.**

Honourable Members, The business to be transacted by the House during the Special Sittings today is as specified in the *Gazette Notice* I have referred to. Indeed as also notified to all Members and the Public by way of newspaper notifications published by the Clerk of the National Assembly on 24th December, 2021. Further, as notified in the said *Gazette*, if need arises, the Sittings of today being special ones, may **automatically** extend until conclusion of the business specified in the Gazette without a Member having to move motion under Standing Order 30(a), unless the House resolves to hold a Third Sitting of the day.

Honourable Members, as notified during the last Special Sittings of the House of 21st and 22nd December 2021, in absence of the Speaker of the National Assembly who is still recuperating after a medical procedure, I will be presiding over the Sittings of today also, assisted by the Members of the Chairperson's Panel.

Honourable Members, you will recall that, following the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Chamber Speaking and Electronic Voting System was re-configured to accommodate one Hundred and Twenty Members in line with the advisory of the Ministry of Health. The advisory notwithstanding, there is need to allow all Members desiring to participate and take part in any Vote or any Division called to do so.

In this regard, **Honourable Members** pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 70 should there be any Divisions called during today's Sittings, a modified version of Roll-Call Voting will be applied. This will involve Members forming a queue on either side of the Speaker's Seat to record their Votes, before the Tellers and the Clerks while observing the social distance advisory. Further, should need arise I will invoke the provisions of Standing Order 265(D)(4) with respect to virtual voting.

As stated by our Speaker previously, as leaders, we have a duty to join the concerted efforts of flattening the curve of COVID-19 Pandemic infections in our beloved Nation. In this regard, due to the reported surge in the number of cases of COVID-19 infections, I wish to remind **Honourable Members** and **staff** to adhere to the Ministry of Health's protocols issued for the prevention and control of the Pandemic as well as the various *Speaker's Guidelines* and related Communications on access to the House and sitting arrangements shall be adhered to during the Special Sittings.

The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you!



THE HON. MOSES CHEBOI, CBS, MP
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 29th December, 2021

