



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

_____ (No. 052 of 2021) _____

(Convened vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 14275 of 31st December, 2021)

**CONVOCATION AT THE START OF SPECIAL SITTINGS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED ON WEDNESDAY 5TH, THURSDAY
6TH AND FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY, 2022**

Honourable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you to the first Special Sittings of the House in the Year 2022. The Special sittings been convened pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 29 relating to the procedure for convening of Special Sittings of the House during recess. Let me also take this opportunity to wish every one of you, your families and constituents good health, peace and prosperity in this New Year 2022.

Hon. Members, I wish to report to the House that, on **29th December 2021**, I **received a request** from the Leader of the Majority Party requesting that Special Sittings of the National Assembly be convened on 5th, 6th and 7th January, 2022 to consider certain urgent business. Other than the preliminary items of business of the House, the urgent business specified in the request of the Leader of the Majority Party included, *consideration in Committee of the Whole House and Third Reading of the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 56 of 2021) starting from Clause 8, and, Second Reading, Committee of the Whole House and Third Reading of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 32 of 2021).*

Honourable Members, having taken cognizance of the urgency of the business so specified, I acceded to the request to convene Special Sittings of the House **today, Wednesday 5th, tomorrow Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January, 2022** commencing at 10.00 am, in the case of the Morning Sittings and at 2.30 pm for the Afternoon Sittings. Consequently, and in keeping with the requirements of Standing Order 29, I did Gazette the said Special Sittings of the House vide Kenya *Gazette Notice No. 14275 of 31st December, 2021*. **In this regard, the Special Sittings of the House today Wednesday 5th, tomorrow, Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th January, 2022, are properly convened.**

Honourable Members, the business to be transacted by the House during the Special Sittings is as specified in the *Gazette Notice* I have referred to and indeed as also notified to all Members and the Public by way of newspaper notifications published by the Clerk of the National Assembly on 31st December, 2021 and 3rd January 2022. Further, as notified in the said *Gazette*, if need arises, the Sittings during the said days being special ones, may **automatically** extend until conclusion of the business specified in the Gazette without a Member having to move a motion under Standing Order 30(a).

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 Twelve Members in line with the advisory of the Ministry of Health. The advisory notwithstanding, I have revised the *Speaker's Guidelines No. 2 of 2021*, to allow all Members desiring to take part in any Vote or any Division called to do so by way of Electronic Voting as contemplated under Standing Order 70. In this regard, the Chamber Speaking and Electronic Voting System have been reconfigured to accommodate **325** Members and are ready for use.

Honourable Members May I remind the House that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 70, should there be any Divisions called during the specified Sittings, **Members will only use the electronic voting system.** Therefore, as notified on 3rd January 2022, I hope Members who may have misplaced their Voting Cards have obtained replacements. **Those who haven't are hereby asked to do so since the replacements exercise will continue throughout the Special Sittings.**

Further, **Hon. Members,** I have also allowed the Clerk to publish Supplementary Order Papers for the Morning and Afternoon Sittings of today Wednesday, January 05, 2022 to accommodate the Leader of the Majority Party and three other Hon. Members who submitted additional proposed amendments just a few minutes past the 24 hour deadline as stipulated under Standing Order 133(2).

Honourable Members, as indicated by the Deputy Speaker during the last Special Sittings of the House, it is unusual for the Speaker not to preside over at the commencement part of any sitting of the House, save for the ordinary morning Sittings. Indeed, as notified by the Deputy Speaker, my absence from the House was a result of a minor accident which happened during my usual duties in the Office. I ended up with a right hand upper arm fracture and injury to tendons. I sought medical attention and was advised to recuperate away from Office after undergoing a surgery. I have been recuperating well and am getting better each day. Unfortunately, the pain has been persistent and I am still wearing part of the shoulder support mechanism. I will preside during the first part of Special Sittings as is our practice and thereafter retreat to my Chambers.

Having stated that, I humbly request Hon. Members to refrain from consulting me while at the Chair since I will be available in my Chambers for any urgent consultations.

Honourable Members, I sincerely thank the Deputy Speaker and Members of the Chairpersons Panel for ably taking up part of my duties during the absence and constant consultations we have had. I also thank each one of you and indeed all Kenyans for your prayers and goodwill messages. I thank you all.

Honourable Members, As we transact the important business before the House during the Special Sittings, I urge all **Honourable Members** of this August House to conduct themselves with patience and decorum. You will all agree with me that, legislative business is largely about genuine debate and persuasion. At the end of it all, as indeed guided by the old parliamentary dictum, in a democracy, the minority will have their say and the majority will always have their way. It is unacceptable for either side to apply unfair means to deny the other from fulfilling their part. In this regard, even though you may disagree with one another, or in the case of defeats or wins by any side to any vote or decision, it is important to keep in mind that we are all State Officers and people's representatives who ought to conduct ourselves with high standards of decorum.

The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you!



THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 5th January 2022