



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT– (THIRD SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

_____ (No. 014 of 2024) _____

ON

**UPCOMING PRIORITY BUSINESS AND PHASED OCCUPATION OF
THE BUNGE TOWER**

Honourable Members,

1. I wish to welcome you back to the House after the short recess, which coincided with the observance of the Easter period, for Christians and *Ramadhan*, for the Muslims. It is my hope that you are well renewed in your spirits and rejuvenated in your minds to resume transaction of the business of the House for the remainder of the first part of the Session.
2. During this period, the House is expected to consider various priority businesses including assessing the suitability of persons nominated for appointment to the positions of ambassadors and high commissioners, ratification of the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs), consideration of priority Bills, as well as the budget-related matters. Instructively, it is projected that the National Treasury will submit the Budget Estimates for the National Government for the financial year 2024/2025 on or before 30th April 2024.

3. Additionally, **Honourable Members**, you will recall that, prior to the short recess, the House passed the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 and referred it to the Senate for the bicameral consideration. It is therefore expected that the Senate will send the Bill back, together with the annual County Allocation of Revenue Bill for financial year 2024/2025, during this part of the Session. From the foregoing, it is evident that the House has a full in-tray. As a result, your dedication and commitment to the business of the House both in plenary and Committees will be of paramount significance.
4. **Honourable Members**, with respect to facilitation of Members, the Parliamentary Service Commission is expediting the completion of the **Bunge Tower** in order to bridge the deficit in office accommodation for Members. Consequently, PSC has established that Members' offices in the building will be ready for occupation by the end of this week.
5. **Honourable Members**, you may recall, on 1st November 2022, I directed the Clerk to allocate part of the Building earmarked for the National Assembly, in readiness for occupation at the appropriate time. Further, I prescribed the criteria for allocation, consequent to which the Clerk allocated the offices, committee rooms and ancillary facilities in the Tower.
6. Having said that, **Honourable Members**, I also wish to inform the House that Kenya will host the **2024 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group**. The Annual Meetings will be held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) from **27th to 31st May 2024** and will bring together high-level delegates, among them being Heads of State and Governments.

7. In this regard and in order to accord the delegates appropriate facilitation, the National Treasury has requested Parliament to release forty-seven (47) offices at KICC to accommodate the dignitaries, with effect from Thursday, **11th April 2024**. To this end, **Honourable Members**, the Parliamentary Service Commission has acceded to the request to temporarily release the offices leased by the Commission at the KICC during the AfDB Annual Meetings. Clearly, this will necessitate the relocation of forty-two (42) Members of this House who are currently accommodated at KICC.
8. In this regard, **Honourable Members**, the phased occupation of Members' offices in the Bunge Tower will be undertaken in accordance with the Schedule of Allocation prepared by the Clerk of the National Assembly. Phase one will involve moving Members from KICC to the Tower or other alternative accommodation. This will commence on **Thursday, 11th April 2024**.
9. For clarity, **Honourable Members**, the exercise will proceed as follows—
 - (a) First, all Members currently in Harambee SACCO Plaza who were allocated offices in the Tower will immediately relocate to their new offices in the Bunge Tower. This is intended to create room to accommodate Members relocating from KICC who were unsuccessful in the balloting for offices in the Bunge Tower; and
 - (b) Second, Members with offices at KICC who were allocated offices in the Bunge Tower are to be relocated to the assigned offices in the Bunge Tower.
10. Phase two of the relocation will entail the following—
 - (a) relocation of Members from Continental House to the Bunge Tower, for those who were allocated offices in the new Tower;

- (b) relocation of Members from leased offices to the Bunge Tower from 1st July 2024, for the case of Members who were allocated offices in the Tower; and
- (c) allocation of appropriate offices in other buildings within Parliament Square to Members moving from Continental House or leased premises who were not allocated offices in the Bunge Tower.

11. Honourable Members, the measures stated above are for the convenience of all Members and in preparation for the official opening of the Bunge Tower by the Head of State later this month. I, therefore, urge you to cooperate with the office of the Clerk in order to ensure seamless execution of this important exercise.

12. Finally, Honourable Members, May I take this opportunity to wish the Muslim community, in Parliament and in the entire nation, ***Eid Mubarak***.

13. The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you!


THE RT. HON. (DR.) MOSES F.M. WETANG'ULA, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th April 2024