



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – (THIRD SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 AT 2.30 P.M.

1. Parliament assembled at thirty minutes past Two O'clock.

2. ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

The President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., CGH, escorted by the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the National Assembly and accompanied by Maces of both Houses, entered the Chamber at 40 minutes past Two O'clock.

3. The Proceedings were opened with Prayer said by the Speaker of the Senate.

4. CONVOCATION BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

The Speaker of the Senate conveyed the following communication from the Chair:

“Your Excellency Hon. (Dr.) William Samoei Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces;

The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Article 132 (1)(b) of the Constitution provides that the President shall address a special sitting of Parliament once every year and may address Parliament at any other time.

Article 132 (1)(c) of the Constitution further provides that the President shall, among others, once every year, report in an address to the Nation, all the measures taken and the progress achieved in the realization of the national values referred to in Article 10 of the Constitution.

In addition, Article 240 (7) of the Constitution requires the President, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the National Security Council (NSC), to report to Parliament annually on the state of the security of Kenya.

In this regard, the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, vide a letter referenced EOP/CAB.26/4A/VOL. IV/(178) dated 9th September 2024, informed the Speakers of the Houses of Parliament of the intention of His Excellency the President to address Parliament.

Consequently, and upon consultation, the address to Parliament by His Excellency the President was scheduled for today, Thursday, 21st November, 2024.

Pursuant to Standing Order 25 (2) of the Senate Standing Orders, I notified Honourable Senators of the place, date and time of today's special sitting vide Gazette Notice No. 14829, which was published in the Kenya Gazette on Friday, 15th November, 2024.

Further, together with the Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, I notified all Members of Parliament and the general public of today's special sitting vide notices placed in 3 local newspapers yesterday, Wednesday, 20th November, 2024.

Accordingly, Honourable Members, this special sitting is properly convened.

I thank you.”

5. CONVOCAATION BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker of the National Assembly conveyed the following communication from the Chair:

“Your Excellency, Hon. (Dr.) William S. Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces;

The Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, EGH, MP, Honourable Speaker of the Senate;
Honourable Members of Parliament;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Article 132(1) (b) of the Constitution requires the President to address the nation once every year and at any other time. Further, Article 132(1) (c) of the Constitution requires the President to once every year, report, in an address to the Nation, on measures taken and progress achieved in the realization of our national values.

Additionally, Article 132 (1) (c) (iii) of the Constitution provides that the President shall submit a report for debate to the National Assembly on the progress made in fulfilling the international obligations of the Republic.

In this regard, Hon. Members, by way of a Message to the House, His Excellency the President conveyed his desire to address a Joint Sitting of the Houses of Parliament today, 21st November 2024. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 22 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, by Gazette Notice No. 15327, which was published in the Kenya Gazette on 18th November 2024, and indeed as also notified to all Members and the general public by way of newspaper notification published on 20th November 2024, I gave Notice of this Special Sitting of Parliament to the Members of the National Assembly.

Accordingly, Honourable Members, this Special Sitting is properly convened.

Your Excellency, Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's President's address comes at a time when the country is set to host the 14th Edition of the East Africa Community Inter-Parliamentary Games. The Inter-Parliamentary games shall bring together participants from all the Member States of the EAC and EALA and are part of deepening the integration process. The games are scheduled to commence next month on 7th December, 2024 in Mombasa County and all is set in readiness for the games.

Moving on, Your Excellency, it is the custom of Parliament to recognize invited guests seated in our galleries. I therefore wish to recognize the following guests who are seated in the Speaker's Row –

Her Excellency Rachel Ruto, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, and other members of the First Family;

His Excellency Hon. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki, EGH, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya; the Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;

Your Excellency, Hon. Members, also present in the Speaker's Row this afternoon are the Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mbete Mwilu, MGH, Deputy Chief Justice and Vice President of the Supreme Court. She is accompanied by Hon. Justice William Ouko, Judges of the Supreme Court of Kenya. Also accompanying the Deputy Chief Justice are Hon. Justice Oscar Angote, Presiding Judge of the Environment and Land Court, and Hon. Lady Justice Jemimah Wanza Keli, Judge of the Employment and Labour Relations Court.

We are also honoured to have in our midst the immediate former Speakers of the Houses of Parliament, the Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, and the Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, EGH, the Governor for Bungoma County, Hon. Ekwere Ethuro, and Hon. Kenneth Marende. Additionally, we are also pleased to be hosting a delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia.

Your Excellency, allow me to also recognize the Chairperson of the Council of Governors, who is also the Governor of Wajir County, the Hon. Ahmed Abdullahi, and the Hon. Johnson Sakaja, Governor of Nairobi City County.

May I also accord special recognition to all Cabinet Secretaries present and particularly acknowledge four of them, who are former ranking members of the Houses of Parliament, namely Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, former leader of the Majority Party in the National Assembly, Hon. Onesimus Murkomen, EGH, former Senate Majority Leader, Hon. John Mbadi, EGH, and Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, EGH, both former Leaders of the Minority in the National Assembly.

I also acknowledge Mr. Felix Koskei, Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Principal Secretaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and Heads of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices, and State Corporations present.

They are all welcome to Parliament.

Your Excellency, I wish to make a special welcome to Parliament and mention the Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, General Daniel Kahariri, and the respective Service Commanders, the Inspector General of Police, and other leaders of our disciplined forces who are seated at the Speaker's Row. Parliament is grateful for your distinguished service to our Nation.

To all invited guests, Karibuni Bunge.

Your Excellency, Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces to address this Special Sitting of Parliament.

Welcome, your Excellency.”

Thereupon, the Speaker invited His Excellency the President to address the Special Sitting of the two Houses.

6. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 132 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Pursuant to Article 132(1)(b) & (c) of the Constitution, His Excellency the President delivered an address to the Joint Sitting of Parliament.

7. ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

The Speaker of the Senate conveyed the following:

“Your Excellency the President, the Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members and distinguished guests, please be up standing.

We have come to the conclusion of the business of the day and it is now time to adjourn.

The Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, 26th November, 2024 at 2:30 pm in the Senate Chamber. ”

8. ADJOURNMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker of the National Assembly conveyed the following:

“Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the National Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday, 25th November, 2024 at 2:30 pm.

May I take this opportunity to invite all Honourable Members and our guests to a reception at the Parliament Courtyard.

May I also request all Honourable Members and our guests to remain standing in your places until the procession of His Excellency the President and the Speakers leaves the Chamber.

I thank you!”

9. DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

Thereupon, His Excellency the President departed from the Chamber in State procession.

10. PARLIAMENT ROSE - at five minutes past Four O'clock.

MEMORANDUM

The Speakers will take respective Chairs on Monday, 25th November, 2024 at 2.30 p.m. for the National Assembly and on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. for the Senate.

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