



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT– (FOURTH SESSION)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

_____ (No. 001 of 2025) _____

ON

**RESUMPTION OF SITTINGS FOR THE FOURTH SESSION AND LAPSED &
RE-INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESS**

Honourable Members,

- 1.** I wish to welcome you back to the House for the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth Parliament. I trust that you had a restful and joyous Christmas and New Year break, and that you also took the opportunity to engage with constituents on key development matters. I am confident that you are well rejuvenated and ready to embark on the business that is ahead of us this Session, which marks the Mid-Term of the Thirteenth Parliament.
- 2. Honourable Members,** at the outset, I wish to thank you all for availing yourselves for the Special Sitting held on Thursday, 16th January 2025, during which the House transacted priority business. I also wish to thank Members for their participation in the just concluded Members Midterm Retreat, which took place on January 27 to 31, 2025, as scheduled and witnessed the highest-ever turnout of Members. On behalf of the Leadership of the House, I extend our gratitude to all of you for your participation. This made the retreat a great success and positioned the House for a smooth take-off in the Fourth Session.
- 3.** Several Resolutions were adopted at the Retreat and are currently being implemented progressively by the Office of the Clerk. Among the key outcomes of the Retreat was the identification of possible areas that require the National Assembly's legislative intervention.

4. Indeed, some of these resolutions may be contained in unpublished legislative proposals by Members, totaling two hundred and eighty-three (283), which are undergoing processing. Members who sponsored these proposals are requested to indicate if they still wish to proceed with them or withdraw any that may have since been overtaken by events. Additionally, the retreat underscored the need to maintain the momentum demonstrated during our deliberations, particularly in expediting priority business in the Fourth Session and strengthening the oversight function of the House through its Committees.

5. **Honourable Members**, on matters of Social Health (SHA), you will recall that there were concerns by Members about its implementation and also feedback being received from the people regarding the management of the transition process. In this regard, I instructed the Departmental Committee on Health to arrange to meet the Ministry of Health and Social Health Authority Officials to inquire into this matter and apprise the House by way of a Statement. I will, therefore, accord the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, at an appropriate time, an opportunity to apprise the House on the outcome of the meeting.

6. **Honourable Members**, as we commence the Fourth Session, I wish to bring to the attention of the House that the term of the following **eighteen Committees** lapsed, today, 11th February 2025, being the first sitting of the Fourth Session. The first category, which lapses every session, is the **House Keeping Committees**. These are —

- (i) the House Business Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 171*);
- (ii) the Committee on Members' Services and Facilities (*pursuant to Standing Order 212B*);
- (iii) the Committee of Powers and Privileges (*section 15 of the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act*); and
- (iv) the Procedure & House Rules Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 208*);

7. The second category, largely comprising **Audit, Appropriation, and other General Purpose Committees**, has lapsed pursuant to the respective Standing Orders which prescribe their lifetime. These are —

- (i) the Public Accounts Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 205*);
- (ii) the Special Funds Accounts Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 205A*);
- (iii) the Decentralized Funds Accounts (*pursuant to Standing Order 205B*);
- (iv) the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education (*pursuant to Standing Order 206*);
- (v) the Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy (*pursuant to Standing Order 206A*);
- (vi) the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration & Agriculture (*pursuant to Standing Order 206B*);
- (vii) the Budget and Appropriations Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 207*);
- (viii) the Public Debt and Privatization Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 207A*);
- (ix) the Public Petitions Committee (*pursuant to pursuant to Standing Order 208A*);
- (x) the Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee (*pursuant to Standing Order 208B*);
- (xi) the Committee on Implementation (*pursuant to Standing Order 209*);
- (xii) the Committee on Delegated Legislation (*pursuant to Standing Order 210*);
- (xiii) the Committee on Regional Integration (*pursuant to Standing Order 212*); and
- (xiv) the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity (*pursuant to Standing Order 212C*).

- 8. Honourable Members,** In line with the Standing Orders, the House Business Committee should be listed for reconstitution as the only Business in today's Order Paper, as it owes its exclusive role in setting up business of the House. Thereafter, the House Business Committee ought to receive and consider recommendations from the Committee on Selection on reconstitution of the remaining seventeen Committees, including any consequential changes to other Committees.
- 9.** I am aware that at the beginning of last week, the clerk wrote to the Leadership of the Majority and the Minority Parties to expedite the process of reconstituting the affected Committees. Indeed as instructed during our retreat in Naivasha.
- 10.** Having said that, **Honourable Members,** I wish to remind the House that in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders, any business that was not concluded at the end of the Third Session has lapsed. This includes any pending Motions, Statements, Questions, and certain Bills. Any Committee or individual Member wishing to re-introduce any lapsed business is advised to do so in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Standing Orders and our parliamentary practice. Members who may not be clear on the procedure are advised to visit the Table Office for guidance.
- 11. Honourable Members,** with regard to the lapsing of the Bills, Standing Order 141(2)(b) provides as follows and I quote—
- "A Bill that has been published, read a First Time or in respect of which the Second Reading has not been concluded—*
- (b) at the end of two consecutive Sessions of the same Parliament **shall lapse** at the end of the second Session and may be republished in the same or different form in accordance with Standing Order 114 (Introduction of Bills)."*
- 12.** However, as Honourable Members will recall, on Wednesday, 4th December 2024, the House approved a procedural Motion exempting nineteen (19) Bills from lapsing during the period of the Third and Fourth Sessions. These are—

- (1) The Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2022;
- (2) The Fisheries Management and Development Bill, 2023;
- (3) The Meteorology Bill, 2023;
- (4) The Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (5) The Preservation of Public Security (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (6) The Appellate Jurisdiction (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (7) The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (8) The Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (9) The Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (10) The Mining (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (11) The Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (12) The Kenya Roads (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (13) The National Transport and Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (14) The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2023;
- (15) The Gold Processing Bill, 2023;
- (16) The Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (17) The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (18) The Universities (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill, 2023; and,
- (19) The Institute of Social Work Professionals Bill, 2023.

13. Bills that were not covered under this exemption have since lapsed. However, sponsors of the affected Bills, who may be desirous of proceeding with them, may, in accordance with the Standing Orders, seek guidance from the Clerk.

14. Honourable Members, with regard to Questions, those that had been transmitted to the respective Ministries by the end of the Third Session but had not yet received a response have lapsed.

However, if any Member still wishes to obtain a response, the Member is required to visit the Table Office to formally indicate so. This must be done by close of business on Thursday, 20th February 2025, to enable the Leader of the Majority Party to prioritise such Questions when scheduling the appearance of Cabinet Secretaries before the House.

- 15.** For avoidance of doubt, any Questions that had not yet been transmitted to the Ministries, Constitutional Commissions, and Independent Offices have also lapsed. Members are, however, still at liberty to file such Questions afresh if they wish to do so.
- 16.** As we settle into this new Session, to ensure effective communication and facilitation of Members, Members are also requested to update their biodata with the Office of the Clerk in order for it to be accurately captured in the records and on the website. I therefore urge all Members to visit the Office of the Clerk at the earliest convenience in order to fast-track this process.
- 17.** Additionally, **Honourable Members**, the following ten Bills, which the House passed before proceeding to the just-concluded recess, were assented to and are now part of our laws—
 - (i) The National Rating Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 55 of 2022);
 - (ii) The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2023);
 - (iii) The Water (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 33 of 2023);
 - (iv) The Ethics and Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 11 of 2024);
 - (v) The Kenya Roads Board (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 18 of 2024);
 - (vi) The Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 35 of 2024)

- (vii) The Division of Revenue (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 38 of 2024);
- (viii) The Tax Procedures (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 46 of 2024);
- (ix) The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 47 of 2024);
and
- (x) The Business Laws (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 49 of 2024).

18. I laud the House for the dedication demonstrated in the passage of the said laws and urge that, as we commence the Fourth Session, we undertake our legislative duty with greater enthusiasm in order to achieve more.

19. Finally, **Honourable Members**, as we embark on the Fourth Session, I am confident that the House will continue to build on its commendable performance in consideration of key legislative business and other crucial committee businesses.

20. Let us remain committed to serving the people of Kenya with diligence, integrity and efficiency. With that, **Honourable Members**, I once again welcome you back and look forward to a productive Fourth Session.

I thank you!


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

Tuesday, 11th February 2025

