



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(No.009 of 2025)

**STAY OF CONSIDERATION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 35 OF 2022)
AND THE KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BILL NO. 1 OF 2024)**

Honourable Members,

1. You will recall that in January 2025, the National Assembly held a successful Mid-Term Retreat for Members in which various pertinent issues relating to the business of the House were deliberated on. During the retreat, it was observed that a remarkable number of Members had submitted legislative proposals on various subject matters, some of which had already been published as Bills and are at different stages of consideration. It was further noted that some of the Bills and legislative proposals contained similar or related subject matters. Indeed, the retreat resolved that to ensure prudent use of available time and to fast track consideration of the Bill and proposals, it would be imperative that the Bills be consolidated.
2. **Honourable Members,** it is against this background that the retreat resolved that the sponsors of Bills and legislative proposals with similar or related subject matters consider consolidating the Bills by either co-sponsoring or introducing amendments to an existing Bill under consideration. Further, it was resolved that Committees under whose mandates the consolidated Bills fall take into account contents of the various Bills and incorporate them in their reports to the House for possible inclusion and consideration during Committee of the whole House.

- 3. Honourable Members,** in furtherance of the resolution, I have since received a letter dated 27th February 2025, from the Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP, requesting stay of consideration of the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 35 of 2022), which was published vide Kenya *Gazette* Supplement No. 154 of 14th October 2023 seeking to amend the Political Parties Act, Cap 7D. The Bill requires the Registrar of Political Parties to convey to the Clerk of each House of Parliament, any coalition agreement deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties. The Bill was read a First Time on 12th April 2023, following which it was committed to the Procedure and House Rules Committee for consideration.
- 4.** In her letter, the Deputy Speaker further indicates that a similar Bill, the Political Parties (Amendment) (No.2) Bill (Senate Bill No. 26 of 2024), originating from the Senate, is before the House, and noting the resolution made during the 2025 Mid-Term Retreat to consolidate Bills on the same subject, she requests, on behalf of the Procedure and House Rules Committee, for stay of further consideration of the Bill.
- 5.** Indeed **Honourable Members,** you will recall that on 12th February 2025, I reported to the House that I had received a Message from the Senate on the passage of several Bills, including the Political Parties (Amendment) (No.2) Bill (Senate Bill No. 26 of 2024). The Bill, which is sponsored by the Senate Majority Leader, seeks to actualize some of the recommendations and views of the public submitted to the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) during the national dialogue discourse on issues of electoral justice.
- 6.** The Bill was read a First Time on 13th February 2025 and committed to the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

7. Similarly, **Honourable Members**, I have also received a letter from the Hon. Umulkher Harun Mohamed, MP, sponsor of the Kenya Sign Language Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2024), also seeking to suspend consideration of the Bill. The Bill seeks to provide for the recognition, promotion, development and use of Kenyan Sign Language and to mandate the State to put in place measures for the promotion of the rights of the marginalized, including persons with disabilities.

8. **Honourable Members**, in furtherance of the resolutions made during the 2025 Mid-Term Retreat for Members of the House, the Hon. Umulkher Harun, MP notes that her Bill has similar proposals as those contained in the Kenyan Sign Language Bill (Senate Bill No. 9 of 2023), co-sponsored by Sen. Crystal Asige, MP and the Minority Whip, the Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona, CBS, MP which is also before the House. The latter Bill was read a First Time on 28th February 2024 and committed to the Departmental Committee on Social Protection.

9. **Honourable Members**, I have acceded to the requests by the Deputy Speaker and Member for Uasin Gishu County, the Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP and Nominated Member, the Hon. Umulkher Harun, MP. **In this regard, I hereby direct as follows –**


(1) THAT, the consideration of the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 35 of 2022) and the Kenya Sign Language Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2024) is stayed forthwith; and

(2) THAT, the Departmental Committee of Justice & Legal Affairs, and the Departmental Committee on Social Protection, take into consideration the contents of the two Bills by the two Members, and accommodate the proposals contained in the two Bills in their respective Reports to the House for consideration during the Committee of the whole House.

10. Indeed, **Honourable Members**, I take this early opportunity to laud the two Members for this bold step which fosters proper time management as well as collegiality within our legislative processes. I urge other Honourable Members with similar or related Bills to consider consolidation or co-sponsoring as this will fast track consideration of the Bills.

11. The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you!


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

Wednesday, 5th March 2025