



(No.3 of 2013)

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
(FIRST SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE FORMATION
OF COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Members,

I wish to make the following communication regarding the formation of the remaining committees of the Assembly.

Hon. Members will recall that, on Thursday, 2nd May, 2013, I directed the Parliamentary Party Leaderships to submit names of members proposed to be nominated to the remaining Committees for consideration by the House today, May 7, 2013. I had directed the Clerk to prepare a Supplementary Order Paper containing the names of members nominated to the various Committees.

Hon. Members,

I wish to inform the House that, as at 1.30 pm, today, being the time by which a Supplementary Order Paper should be published, the office of the Clerk had only received the list of members nominated to the remaining Committees from one of the coalition

parties. This scenario now threatens to disrupt the smooth running of the businesses before this House.

Hon. Members,

The House had commenced on a very positive note when you approved names of members to serve on the four Committees, namely-

- (i) The House Business Committee;
- (ii) The Committee on Appointments;
- (iii) The Committee on Selection; and,
- (iv) The Procedure and House Rules Committee

Indeed, I am aware that the four Committees commenced their work immediately.

Hon. Members,

The importance of Committees in any legislature, particularly in a Presidential system of governance, cannot be overemphasized. It is through Committees that the bulk of the work of the House ought to be undertaken. Any disruption of the committee system therefore is a threat to the work of the House. In this regard, there is urgent business that is already before the House, and whose period of consideration is limited by the Constitution, or a specific statute or our Standing Orders. I have in mind the following business-

- (i) The consideration of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2013. This Bill was read a *First Time* on April 30, 2013. The Public Finance Management Act and our Standing Orders require the National Assembly to complete the consideration of this Bill within 10 days. This period will expire on Thursday, 9th May, 2013;
- (ii) The Second urgent business is the consideration of the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, which is awaited from the Senate following the passage of the Division

of Revenue Bill, 2013. This Bill will affect the budgeting in the county Governments and release of the *exchequer* funds.

- (iii) The Third such business is the process of approval of the nomination of the Deputy Chief Justice, which, ordinarily ought to be examined by the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
- (iv) The relevant Departmental Committee also ought to have commenced examining the Petition on the Salaries and Remuneration Commission submitted by the Member for Igembe South last week. More importantly, the Committee ought to have facilitated the process of public participation on the budget cycle as required under Article 221(5) of the Constitution;
- (v) Budget and Appropriation committee also ought to have commenced the process of examining the Estimates that were laid before this House last week.

Hon. Members,

Needless to say, soon, the names of persons nominated to serve as principal secretaries will be submitted to the House for approval. These names should be vetted by the relevant Departmental Committees.

Hon. Members,

As your Speaker, I will uphold the Oath of Office that I took on March 28th 2013 and always offer necessary guidance to this House on all matters that come before me. I want to assure the membership of this House that business will continue to be transacted. I have stated before that I will always be guided by the Constitution, statutes and our Standing Orders. In this regard and in order for the House to continue with the business before it, I direct as follows-

1. **THAT**, where names for formation of any committee have been submitted and the list meets the minimum threshold set by Standing Order 177 (as amended on April 25, 2013), the names be brought to the House for consideration and approval; and,
2. **THAT**, the Division of Revenue Bill, (Bill No. 1 of 2013) be placed in the Order Paper for tomorrow, Wednesday, May 8, 2013 (Morning and Afternoon Sessions), for Second Reading. Third Reading should also be concluded on Thursday, the 9th of May, 2013 and the Bill submitted to the Senate.
3. **THAT**, any Members wishing to propose amendments to the Division of Revenue Bill, (Bill No. 1 of 2013) should submit their proposed amendments to the Clerk, at the rise of the House tomorrow the 8th of May, 2013.

I, also urge, the leaderships of parliamentary parties, both within and outside this House to continue consulting and submit the remaining names of members to form Committees, without further delay.

Hon. Members,

I will be issuing further guidance on this and related matters again, in due course.

Thank you!

THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
May 7, 2013