



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

(FIRST SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

**COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE
CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES BY COMMITTEES**

Hon. Members,

I wish to make the following communication regarding the process of Consideration of Estimates.

Hon. Members,

Article 221 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 requires that at least two months before the end of each financial year **(30th April of every year)** the Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance shall submit to the National Assembly estimates of the revenue and expenditure of national government for the next financial year to be tabled in the National Assembly. To this end, the three arms of government submitted their respective budget Estimates for the financial year 2013/14 and medium term to the National Assembly within the stipulated Constitutional deadline of Tuesday 30th April 2013. The Estimates were laid before the House on **Thursday 2nd May 2013** and were subsequently committed to Departmental Committees .

Hon. Members,

The Departmental Committees are required to scrutinize and review estimates according to their respective mandates and submit their reports and recommendations to the Budget and Appropriation Committee. Under Standing Order 234(4), this should be done within twenty one days following the laying of the said Estimates. This period expires today, **Thursday, the 23rd May,**

Hon. Members will agree with me that this deadline cannot be met due to the delays on the formation of various committees as well as the appointment of various cabinet secretaries. The Budget and Appropriation Committee is required to discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the National Assembly, taking into account the recommendations of the Departmental Committees, the views of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance and the public as stipulated in Article 221 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Hon. Members,

In line with the public finance principle of openness and **accountability** including public participation in financial matters as enshrined in Article 201 (1) of the Constitution, the Budget and Appropriation Committee is required to conduct public hearings on the budget estimates for 2013/2014. This exercise is anchored in Article 221(5) of the Constitution and further provided for in Section 39 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 which mandates the relevant committee of the National Assembly to discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the National Assembly, taking into account the views of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance and the public on the proposed recommendations to seek views from the public and the recommendations shall be taken into account when the committee makes its report to the National Assembly.

The Public hearing exercise is expected to provide an opportunity for the National Assembly to collect and seek views from members of the public that will inform the finalization of the 2013/2014 budget estimates and in particular obtain views on:

- Areas where more resources are required to enable creation of more job opportunities.
- Identify areas of wastages and possible areas for rationalization

Hon. Members,

Indeed, I am informed that It is expected that should the House adjourn on Thursday 23rd as per the gazetted calendar of National Assembly. This will allow the Committees to scrutinize the estimates and submit their recommendations by **Monday 3rd June, 2013** in order to facilitate the finalization of the report by the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Hon. Members,

I am **also** informed that the Budget and Appropriation Committee held a meeting held on **Tuesday 21st May** where it resolved to hold Public Hearings on the 2013/14 Budget estimates on **Thursday 30th May 2013** simultaneously in the following nine (9) centres namely: **Mombasa, Nakuru, Embu, Kisumu, Nyeri, Garissa, Isiolo, Eldoret and Kakamega**. The Hon. Members are scheduled to travel to the respective centers **on Wednesday 29th May 2013** and **depart on Friday 31st May 2013**. The Committee resolved that the culmination of the exercise will be in a national public hearing to be held in **Nairobi** on **3rd June 2013** before the Committee embarks on the final report writing retreat.

The report generated from the public hearings shall form part of the Budget and Appropriation Committee recommendations on the 2013/14 budget estimates to the National Assembly.

Honourable Members,

In view of this, and also with the realization that the Departmental Committees require adequate time to go through the budget, meet the various stakeholders in the budget process before collating their views for submission to the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I hereby direct as follows;

1. **THAT** the departmental Committees continue with the scrutiny of the Estimates which they have already embarked on with the view of completing and submitting their respective reports to the Budget and Appropriations Committee by **Thursday 31st, May, 2013 and;**
2. **THAT**, the Budget and Appropriations Committee continue with the review of the Estimates and consider the reports of the Departmental Committees and table its report in the House on **Tuesday 4th June, 2013** pursuant to Standing Order 235 (5)

THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
May 23, 2013