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**CONTENT**

Bill for Introduction into the Senate—

The Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Bill, 2014 ..... 253

PAGE

**THE PARLIAMENTARY POWERS AND  
PRIVILEGES BILL, 2014**

**ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES**

*Clause*

**PART I—PRELIMINARY**

1—Short title

2—Interpretation

**PART II—THE PRECINCTS OF PARLIAMENT**

3—Description of precincts of Parliament.

4—Presence of an officer of the national security organ  
in precincts of Parliament.

5—Access to precincts of Parliament.

6—Service of civil process.

7—Assembling, demonstrating and picketing.

**PART III—PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF  
MEMBERS**

8—Freedom of speech in Parliament.

9—Postponement of disqualification to enable appeal.

10—Proceedings not to be questioned in courts.

11—Immunity from legal proceedings.

12—Freedom from arrest for civil debt during session.

13—Giving evidence of proceedings.

14—Determination of a question arising in the House on  
right or power of Parliament.

**PART IV—BREACH OF PRIVILEGES**

15—Committee of Powers and Privileges.

16—Conduct constituting breach of privilege.

17—Determination of breach of privilege.

**PART V—SUMMONING OF WITNESSES**

18—Invitation and summoning of witnesses.

19—Procedure if witness fails to appear.

20—Privileges of witnesses.

21—Objection to answer question or to produce papers.

22—Duty of public officers to give evidence.

#### **PART VI—PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCASTING**

23—Protection in respect of publications.

24—Unauthorized publishing.

25—Broadcasting of proceedings.

#### **PART VII—ENFORCEMENT**

26—Prohibited acts in respect of Parliament and its members.

27—Offences relating to witnesses.

28—Improper influence of members.

29—Duty of court Registrar.

30—Breach to constitute gross misconduct.

31—Offences relating to access to precincts of Parliament.

32—Defamation against Parliament.

33—General penalty.

34—Request to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

35—Members of Staff to have powers of police officer.

36—Offences cognizable.

#### **PART VIII—MISCELLANEOUS**

37—Protection of members of public.

38—Extension of time.

39—Speaker's orders.

40—Repeal.

#### **FIRST SCHEDULE— SUMMONS TO WITNESSES**

#### **SECOND SCHEDULE—AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS**

**THE PARLIAMENTARY POWERS AND  
PRIVILEGES BILL, 2014**

**A Bill for**

**AN ACT of Parliament to give effect to Article 117  
of the Constitution; to provide for the powers,  
privileges and immunities of Parliament and its  
committees; to make provision regulating  
admittance to and conduct within the precincts  
of Parliament; and for connected purposes**

**ENACTED** by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

**PART I—PRELIMINARY**

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Powers  
and Privileges Act, 2014.

Short title.

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the National Assembly or  
the Clerk of the Senate;

“committee” means a committee of the National  
Assembly or a committee of the Senate;

“Committee of Powers and Privileges” means a  
Committee established under section 15;

“Houses of Parliament” means the National Assembly  
and the Senate;

“journal” means the minutes and the official records of  
the Houses of Parliament whether in audio, electronic or  
any other form including all papers and accounts  
howsoever presented to or belonging to the Houses of  
Parliament, or any other records of the proceedings of  
Parliament;

“Member” means a member of the National Assembly  
or of the Senate;

“member of staff” means an officer of the  
Parliamentary Service, any person acting under the orders  
of the Speaker or any police officer on duty within the  
precincts of Parliament;

“national security organ” means a national security  
organ specified under Article 239(1) of the Constitution;

“Parliament” means the Parliament of Kenya established under Article 93 of the Constitution;

“Parliamentary Service Commission” means the Parliamentary Service Commission established under Article 127 of the Constitution;

“Speaker” means the Speaker of the National Assembly or of the Senate, and includes the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly or of the Senate, or a member presiding at a sitting of a House of Parliament under Article 107(1)(c) of the Constitution; and

“Standing Orders” means the Standing Orders of a House of Parliament for the time being in force.

## **PART II—PRECINCTS OF PARLIAMENT**

**3.** (1) The precincts of Parliament shall comprise the area of land and every building or part of a building under Parliament’s control including—

Description of  
precincts of  
Parliament.

- (a) the chambers in which the proceedings of Parliament are conducted including the galleries and lobbies of the chambers;
- (b) all the parts of the buildings in which the chambers are situated including the entrances, forecourts, yards, gardens, enclosures or open spaces appurtenant thereto;
- (c) committee rooms and other meeting places provided or used for Parliament’s purposes;
- (d) the offices of Parliament including the places within such offices that are provided for the use of members, members of staff, members of the public and the press;
- (e) places provided for the use or accommodation of the members, members of the public and representatives of the press used in connection with the proceedings of Parliament or its committees; and
- (f) all other buildings or parts of a building provided or used in connection with the proceedings of Parliament or its committees while so used by Parliament including such premises as may be leased by Parliament.

(2) Where Parliament or a committee convenes outside the premises ordinarily used for its sittings, this Act shall apply as if the premises where Parliament or the committee is sitting were within the precincts of Parliament.

**4.** An officer of a national security organ may, with the permission and authority of the Speaker of the relevant House—

Presence of an officer of a national security organ in precincts of Parliament.

- (a) enter upon or remain in the precincts of Parliament for the purpose of performing any function of that national security organ; or
- (b) perform any other function within the precincts of Parliament.

**5.** A member of the public may, subject to this Act, the Standing Orders and such orders and directions as may be issued by the Speaker, access such places within the precincts of Parliament as may be specified.

Access to precincts of Parliament.

**6.** (1) No process issued by any court in Kenya in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction shall be served or executed—

Service of civil process.

- (a) within the precincts of Parliament while either one or both Houses are sitting; or
- (b) through the Speaker or any officer of Parliament unless it relates to a person employed within the precincts of Parliament or to the attachment of a member's salary.

(2) The right of access to justice under Article 48 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section for the purposes of facilitating the conduct of the business and the affairs of Parliament.

**7.** (1) The Speaker may designate areas within or outside the precincts of Parliament where members of the public may, pursuant to Article 37 of the Constitution, assemble, demonstrate, picket or present petitions or memoranda to Parliament.

Assembling, demonstrating and picketing.

(2) Any assembling, demonstration, picketing and presentation of petitions or memoranda to Parliament under subsection (1) shall be in accordance with such guidelines as the Speaker may issue.

(3) A person who assembles, demonstrates or pickets contrary to the provisions of this section may be removed from the precincts of Parliament on the direction of a Speaker, a duly authorized member of staff or a police officer.

(4) The right of assembly, demonstration, picketing and petition under Article 37 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section for the purposes of facilitating the orderly conduct of business and affairs of Parliament.

### **PART III—PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF MEMBERS**

**8.** (1) There shall be freedom of speech and debate in Parliament as provided for in Article 117 of the Constitution.

Freedom of speech  
in Parliament.

(2) A member shall enjoy the same privileges and immunities in a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament as are applicable in each of the respective Houses.

(3) The right of access to justice under Article 48 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this Part—

- (a) for the purposes of facilitating the immunities of the Houses and the committees of Parliament in accordance with Article 117 of the Constitution;
- (b) for facilitating the freedom of speech and debate as set out in Article 117 of the Constitution.

**9.** Where any Member has been sentenced to an imprisonment for a period of at least six months, adjudged to be of unsound mind, adjudged bankrupt, or is found in accordance with any law to have misused or abused a State office or a public office or in any way to have contravened Chapter Six of the Constitution, the decision shall not have effect for the purposes of Article 103(1)(g) of the Constitution until all possibility of appeal or review of the relevant decision or sentence has been exhausted.

Postponement of  
disqualification to  
enable appeal.

**10.** No proceedings or decision of Parliament or a Committee of Powers and Privileges acting in accordance with this Act shall be questioned in any court.

Proceedings not to  
be questioned in  
courts.

**11.** (1) No civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted against any Member for words spoken before, or written in a report to Parliament or a Committee, or by reason of any matter or thing brought by him or her therein by a report, petition, Bill, resolution, motion or other document written to Parliament.

Immunity from legal proceedings.

(2) No civil suit shall be commenced against the Speaker, the leader of the majority party, the leader of the minority party, a chairperson of a committees or any member for any act done or ordered by them in the discharge of the functions of their office.

(3) The Clerk or other members of staff shall not be liable to be sued in a civil court or joined in any civil proceedings for an act done or ordered to be done in the discharge of their functions relating to proceedings of either House or committee of Parliament.

**12.** A Member shall not be liable to arrest for a civil debt while the Member is going to, attending or returning from a sitting of Parliament or a committee of Parliament.

Freedom from arrest for civil debt during session.

**13.** (1) No Member or member of staff, and no person employed to take minutes of evidence before Parliament or any committee, shall give evidence in any court, tribunal or elsewhere in respect of the contents of those minutes of evidence or of the contents of any document laid before Parliament or that committee or in respect of any proceedings or examination held before Parliament or that committee without special leave first obtained from the relevant House.

Giving evidence of proceedings.

(2) The special leave referred to in subsection (1) may be granted during a recess or adjournment by a Speaker, or in the absence or other incapacity of the Speaker, the Clerk of the relevant House.

(3) Subject to the provision of Article 35 of the Constitution and to any written law relating to data protection and freedom of information for the time being in force, the special leave referred to in subsection (1) may be declined where—

- (a) the request is unreasonable in the circumstances;
- (b) the information requested is at a deliberative stage in Parliament or in a committee;



- (c) there is failure to pay such fee as may be reasonably required in the circumstances; or
- (d) the applicant fails to satisfy any confidentiality requirements by Parliament.

(4) The right of access to information under Article 35 of the Constitution shall be limited to the nature and extent specified under this section for purposes of facilitating freedom of speech and debate as contemplated under Article 117 of the Constitution.

**14.** Where at any time any question arises in a House or in a committee with regard to—

Determination of a question arising in the House on right or power of Parliament.

- (a) the right or power of Parliament or a committee to hear, admit or receive oral evidence;
- (b) the right or power of Parliament or a committee to peruse or examine any paper, book, record or document or to summon, direct or call upon any person to produce any paper, book, record or document before Parliament or committee; or
- (c) the right or privilege of any person (including a member of the Parliament or committee) to refuse to produce any paper, book, record or document or to lay any paper, book, record or document before Parliament or committee,

that question shall, where no express provision is made in this Act for the determination of that question, be determined in accordance with the usages, forms, precedence, customs, procedures and traditions of the Parliament of Kenya and other jurisdictions to the extent that these are applicable to Kenya.

#### **PART IV—BREACH OF PRIVILEGES**

**15.**(1) There is established, for each House of Parliament, a committee known as the Committee of Powers and Privileges consisting of—

Committee of Powers and Privileges.

- (a) in respect of the National Assembly—
  - (i) the Speaker who shall be the chairperson of the Committee; and

- (ii) fourteen other members of the House appointed in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Assembly;
- (b) in respect of the Senate—
  - (i) the Speaker who shall be the chairperson of the Committee; and
  - (ii) six other members of the House appointed in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Senate;
- (2) The quorum of the Committee shall—
  - (a) in the case of the National Assembly, be the Speaker and four other members; and
  - (b) in the case of the Senate, be the Speaker and two other members.
- (3) Subject to this Act and the Standing Orders of the relevant House of Parliament, the Committee shall regulate its own procedure.
- (4) The functions of the Committee of Powers and Privileges shall be to—
  - (a) inquire into the conduct of a member whose conduct is alleged to constitute a breach of privilege in terms of section 16; and
  - (b) perform such other functions as may be specified in this Act.
- (5) The Committee of Powers and Privileges shall, either of its own motion or as a result of a complaint made by any person, inquire into the conduct of a Member whose conduct is alleged to constitute a breach of privilege in terms of section 16, within fourteen days of receipt of a complaint.
- (6) The Committee of Powers and Privileges shall, within fourteen days of the conclusion of an inquiry, table its findings in the relevant House of Parliament together with such recommendations as it considers appropriate.

(7) Each House of Parliament shall, in accordance with its Standing Orders, consider the report and the recommendations thereon and may take such action against the Member concerned as may be appropriate.

**16.** The Committee of Powers and Privileges may find a Member to be in breach of privilege if the Member—

Conduct constituting breach of privilege.

- (a) contravenes sections 25, 26(1), 27 or 29;
- (b) commits an act mentioned in section 28(1)(a), (b) or (2) and (3)(d), (e), (f) or (g);
- (c) willfully fails or refuses to obey any rule, order or resolution of Parliament;
- (d) contravenes any provision of the Speaker's orders issued under section 40 of this Act; or
- (e) conducts himself or herself in a manner which, in the opinion of the Committee on Powers and Privileges, is intended, or is likely to reflect adversely on the dignity or integrity of Parliament, or of the Members or to be contrary to the best interests of Parliament or its Members.

**17.** (1) The relevant House of Parliament shall have all the powers necessary for inquiring into and pronouncing upon any act or matter constituting breach of privilege in terms of section 16.

Determination of breach of privilege.

(2) An enquiry by the relevant House of Parliament into a matter shall not preclude criminal investigation or criminal proceedings against a Member in connection with the matter concerned.

(3) Where the relevant House of Parliament finds that a Member has committed a breach of privilege, the relevant House of Parliament may, in addition to any other penalty to which the Member may be liable under this Act or any other law, impose any or more of the following penalties—

- (a) a formal warning;
- (b) a reprimand;
- (c) an order to apologize to the House or a person in a manner to be recommended by the Committee of Powers and Privileges;

- (d) the withholding, for a specific period of time, of the member's right to the use or enjoyment of any specified facility provided to Members by Parliament;
- (e) the removal or suspension for a specified period of time of the Member from any parliamentary position occupied by the Member;
- (f) such fine in terms of the Member's monthly salary and allowances as the House may determine;
- (g) the suspension of the Member for such period as the House may decide, whether or not Parliament or any of its committees is scheduled to meet during that period;
- (h) vacation of seat pursuant to Articles 75(2)(b) and 103(1)(c) of the Constitution.

(4) Where the relevant House of Parliament finds a member has committed a breach of privilege, the relevant House of Parliament may, where appropriate, instead of or in addition to the imposition of a penalty under subsection (3), refer the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(5) A fine imposed under subsection (3) shall—

- (a) be paid by the member into such bank account of Parliament as shall be specified by the accounting officer of Parliament;
- (b) be deducted from the Member's salary; or
- (c) where it is not recovered under paragraphs (a) or (b), be recovered by means of a civil action in court.

(6) A member who has been suspended under subsection (3)(g) shall leave the precincts of Parliament and shall not, during the period of suspension, without the written permission of the Speaker—

- (a) enter the precincts for whatever purpose; or

- (b) participate in any activity of Parliament or a committee of Parliament.

(7) The protection of the right to property under Article 40 of the Constitution and the right of access to justice under Article 48 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this Part—

- (a) for the purposes of protecting the privileges and immunities of the Houses and committees of Parliament conferred by this Act in accordance with Article 117 of the Constitution;
- (b) for facilitating the orderly conduct of the business and the affairs of Parliament.

#### **PART V—SUMMONING OF WITNESSES**

**18.** (1) Parliament or its committees may invite or summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing any information, paper, book, record or document in the possession or under the control of that person and, in this respect, Parliament and its committees shall have the same powers as the High Court as specified under Article 125 of the Constitution.

Invitation and  
summoning of  
witnesses.

(2) A summons issued under subsection (1) shall be issued by the Clerk on the direction of—

- (a) the Speaker; or
- (b) the chairperson of a committee acting in accordance with a resolution of the committee.

(3) The general form of a summons shall be as set out in the First Schedule.

(4) The summons shall be served by a member of staff or a police officer who is duly authorized by the Clerk by delivering a copy of the summons-

- (a) to the person mentioned in the summons; or
- (b) at that person's usual or last known place of residence, employment or business or left with a person who is over the age of eighteen years and who resides or is employed at that place.

(5) Where the summons is to be served on a corporation, the summons may be served—

- (a) on the secretary, director or other officer authorised by the corporation; or
- (b) if the officer serving the summons is unable to find any of the officers of the corporation mentioned in paragraph (a)—
  - (i) by leaving it at the registered office of the corporation;
  - (ii) by sending it by prepaid registered post or by a licensed courier service provider approved by the court to the registered postal address of the corporation;
  - (iii) if there is no registered office and no registered postal address of the corporation, by leaving it at the place where the corporation carries on business; or
  - (iv) by sending it by registered post to the last known postal address of the corporation.

(6) The serving officer in all cases in which summons has been served under this section shall swear and annex or cause to be annexed to the original summons an affidavit of service stating the time when and the manner in which summons was served and the name and address of the person (if any) identifying the person served and witnessing the delivery or tender of summons.

(7) The affidavit of service shall be in the form set out in the Second Schedule with such variations as circumstances may require.

(8) Any person who knowingly swears a false affidavit of service commits the offence of perjury and may in addition be subject to such disciplinary action as the Parliamentary Service Commission may determine.

(9) A return by a person who serves a summons under this section shall be *prima facie* proof of the service of the summons.

(10) A person requested or summoned in terms of this section by Parliament or a committee to attend a sitting of Parliament or committee shall be paid such amount of

money as shall be approved by the Clerk as reimbursement for the expenses incurred.

**19.** Where Parliament or a committee requires that any information be verified or otherwise ascertained by the oral examination of a witness, Parliament or the committee may—

Examination of witnesses.

- (a) cause such witness to be examined on oath; and
- (b) require the witness to produce any document, paper, book or record in the possession or under the control of the witness which may have a bearing on the subject of the inquiry.

**20.** (1) Every person who is summoned to give evidence or to produce a document before Parliament or a committee shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges that are applicable to a witness before a court of law.

Privileges of witnesses.

(2) A person who is being examined under oath or affirmation in terms of section 19 shall be required to answer any question put to the person in connection with the subject of the inquiry and to produce any document or information that the person is requested to produce under that section despite the fact that the answer or the document would incriminate or expose the person to criminal or civil proceedings in a court of law.

(3) Evidence given under oath or affirmation by a person before Parliament or a committee shall not be used against the person in a court or other place outside Parliament except in criminal proceedings where the person concerned stands trial on a charge of perjury or a charge contemplated under section 27(1)(c) or (3)(g) or (h).

(4) The right to fair hearing under Article 50 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section for the purposes of advancing the freedom of speech and debate set out in Article 117 of the Constitution.

**21.** (1) Where any person ordered to attend to give evidence or to produce any paper, book, record or document before Parliament or a committee refuses to answer any question or to produce the paper, book, record

Objection to answer question or to produce papers.

or document on the ground that it is of a private nature and does not affect the subject of inquiry, the Speaker may excuse the answering of the question or the production of the paper, book, record or document, or may order the answering or production thereof.

(2) Where any person ordered to attend or to give evidence or to produce any paper, book, record or document before any committee refuses to answer any question or to produce the paper, book, record or document on the ground that it is of a private nature and does not affect the subject of inquiry, the chairperson of the committee may report the refusal to the Speaker with the reasons therefor; and the Speaker may thereupon excuse the answering of the question or the production of the paper, book, record or document, or may order the answering or production thereof.

**22.** (1) No public officer shall refuse to—

Duty of public officers to give evidence.

- (a) produce before Parliament or a committee any paper, book, record or document, or
- (b) give evidence before Parliament or a committee, relating to the correspondence of any national security organs as set out under Article 239 of the Constitution, or any independent commission set out under Article 248 of the Constitution or any public office as defined under Article 260 of the Constitution.

(2) Any public officer who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence.

(3) Where a House passes a resolution that a public officer has contravened subsection (1), the resolution of the House shall constitute a ground for removal from office of the public officer in accordance with the Constitution or any applicable law.

## **PART VI—PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCASTING**

**23.** (1) A person shall not be liable to civil or criminal proceedings in respect of the publication of any journal by order or under the authority of Parliament or a committee.

Protection in respect of publications.

(2) A Member or a member of staff shall not be liable to civil or criminal proceedings in respect of—



- (a) the publication of a document that has been submitted to or is before Parliament or a committee;
- (b) any publication or information given out within the course duty as a Member or member of staff.
- (3) The right of access to justice under Article 48 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section for the purposes of facilitating—
  - (a) the conduct of business and the affairs of Parliament;
  - (b) the attainment of freedom of speech and debate in Parliament in accordance with Article 117 of the Constitution.

**24.** (1) A person shall not publish or tender in evidence—

Unauthorized  
publishing.

- (a) any journal if the publication of that journal is prohibited by or in terms of the Standing Orders or an order or resolution of Parliament;
  - (b) any journal purporting that it has been published under the authority of Parliament or a committee or the Speaker while it has not been published under such authority;
  - (c) any journal purporting that it is a verbatim account of the proceedings of Parliament or a committee while it is not such account.
- (2) In any civil or criminal proceedings instituted for publishing any extract from or abstract of any journal referred to in subsection (1), if the court is satisfied that the extract or abstract was published bona fide and without malice, judgment or verdict, as the case may be, shall be entered for the defendant or accused.
- (3) The right of access to justice under Article 48 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section for the purposes of facilitating—
- (a) the conduct of business and the affairs of Parliament;
  - (b) the attainment of freedom of speech and debate in Parliament in accordance with Article 117 of the Constitution.

**25.** (1) A person shall not broadcast, televise or otherwise transmit by electronic means the proceedings of a House or a committee of Parliament or any part of those proceedings except by order or under the authority of relevant Speaker or chairperson of a committee of Parliament and in accordance with the Standing Orders and the conditions and directions determined by the Speaker.

Broadcasting of proceedings.

(2) A person shall not be liable to civil or criminal proceedings in respect of the broadcasting, televising or electronic transmission of proceedings of Parliament or a committee if it has been authorized under subsection (1) and complies with the conditions, if any, determined under that subsection.

(3) The right of access to information under Article 35 and freedom of the media under Article 34 of the Constitution shall be limited as specified under this section—

- (a) for the purposes of facilitating the immunities of the Houses and the committees of Parliament;
- (b) for facilitating the freedom of speech and debate as set out in Article 117 of the Constitution.

#### **PART VII—ENFORCEMENT**

**26.** (1) A person shall not—

Prohibited acts in respect of Parliament and its members.

- (a) assault, obstruct, molest or insult any member proceeding to, being within or leaving the precincts of Parliament, or endeavour to compel any member by force, insult or menace to declare himself or herself in favour of or against any proposition or matter pending or expected to be brought before Parliament or any committee;
- (b) assault, interfere with, molest, resist or obstruct any member of staff while in the execution of his or her duty;
- (c) assault or threaten a member or unlawfully deprive a member of any benefit on account of the member's conduct in Parliament;
- (d) while Parliament or a committee is sitting, create or take part in any unlawful disturbance which interrupts or is likely to interrupt the proceedings

of Parliament or any committee while Parliament or the committee is sitting; or

- (e) fail or refuse to comply with an instruction by a duly authorized member of staff or a police officer regarding—
  - (i) the presence of the public in the precincts of Parliament including a meeting within the precincts of Parliament; or
  - (ii) the possession of any article, including a firearm, within the precincts.

(2) A person, including a member who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both.

**27.** (1) A person commits an offence where the person—

Offences relating to witnesses.

- (a) having been duly summoned in terms of section 18 fails, without sufficient cause to—
  - (i) attend at the time and place specified in the summons; or
  - (ii) remain in attendance until excused from further attendance by the person presiding at the inquiry;
- (b) when called upon under section 18, refuses to be sworn in or to make an affirmation as a witness; or
- (c) fails or disobeys without sufficient cause to—
  - (i) answer fully and satisfactorily all questions lawfully put to the person under section 18;
  - (ii) produce any document, paper, book or record in the person's possession, custody or control which the person has been required to produce under section 18.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both.

- (3) A person commits an offence where the person—
- (a) threatens, obstructs, assaults or insults a member of staff or police officer carrying out service of summons issued under this Act;
  - (b) uses abusive language directed at member, a committee or a House of Parliament;
  - (c) threatens or obstructs another person in respect of evidence to be given before Parliament or a committee;
  - (d) induces another person to—
    - (i) refrain from giving evidence to or to produce a document before Parliament or a committee; or
    - (ii) give false evidence before Parliament or a committee;
  - (e) assaults or penalizes or threatens another person or deprives that person of any benefit on account of the giving or proposed giving of evidence before Parliament or a committee;
  - (f) with intent to deceive or mislead Parliament or a committee, produces a false, untrue, fabricated or falsified document; or
  - (g) willfully furnishes Parliament or a committee with information which is false or misleading or makes a statement before Parliament or committee that is false or misleading.
- (4) A person who commits an offence under subsection (3) is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

**28.** (1) A person shall not, by fraud, intimidation, force, insult or threat of any kind, or by the offer or promise of any inducement or benefit of any kind, or by any other improper means—

Improper influence  
of members.

- (a) influence a member in the performance of the member's functions as a member;
- (b) induce a member to be absent from Parliament or a committee at a particular time; or
- (c) attempt to compel a member to declare himself or

herself in favour or against a matter pending before or proposed or expected to be submitted to Parliament or a committee.

(2) A member shall not solicit, receive or accept any fee, compensation, gift, reward, favour or benefit of any kind for the member or another person for in respect of-

- (a) voting in any particular manner or not voting on a matter before Parliament;
- (b) promoting or opposing anything pending before or proposed or expected to be submitted to Parliament; or
- (c) making a representation to Parliament.

(3) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence.

**29.** Where a member has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to a period of imprisonment of six months or more without the option of a fine, the Registrar of the relevant court shall inform the Speaker of—

Duty of court Registrar.

- (a) the nature of the offence and the sentence imposed; and
- (b) any appeal that is lodged against the conviction or the sentence and the outcome of the appeal.

**30.** A State officer who is convicted of an offence under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an act of gross misconduct within the meaning of Article 251(1)(b) of the Constitution.

Breach to constitute gross misconduct.

**31.** (1) A person commits an offence where the person—

Offences relating to access to precincts of Parliament.

- (a) enters or attempts to enter a Chamber of Parliament or the precincts of Parliament in contravention of section 5 of this Act;
  - (b) fails or refuses to withdraw from the precincts of Parliament when ordered to do so; or
  - (c) contravenes any order made under this Act regulating the admittance of the public or the conduct of the public within the precincts of Parliament.
- (2) A person who commits an offence under

subsection (1) shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

**32.** A person commits an offence if the person –

Defamation against Parliament.

(a) publishes any false or scandalous libel on Parliament, its committees or its proceedings; or

(b) speaks words defamatory of Parliament, its committees or its proceedings.

**33.** A person convicted of an offence under this Act for which no penalty is provided shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both.

General penalty.

**34.** (1) Where an offence is suspected to have been committed under this Act, the relevant Clerk shall, on the directions of the relevant Speaker, make a request to the Director of Public Prosecutions to take such action as may be appropriate.

Request to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(2) The Director of Public Prosecutions shall, within thirty days from the date of receipt of a request from the Clerk under subsection (1), and within such other subsequent period as the Speaker may determine, submit a report to the relevant Clerk stating the action taken on the matter.

**35.** Every member of staff shall, for the purposes of this Act and of the application of the provisions of the criminal law, have all the powers and enjoy all the privileges of a police officer.

Members of Staff to have powers of police officer.

**36.** Every offence under this Act shall be cognizable to the police.

Offences cognizable.

## **PART VIII—MISCELLANEOUS**

**37.** (1) A person, other than a Member, who is aggrieved by a statement or a remark made by a Member or a witness in or before Parliament or committee about that person may submit a written request to the Clerk to have a response by the person to the statement or remark recorded and published in a journal or record of Parliament.

Protection of members of public.

(2) The Committee of Powers and Privileges of the

relevant House of Parliament shall, subject to the Standing Orders, consider the request and recommend such measures as may be necessary to comply with Article 35(2) of the Constitution.

**38.** (1) Despite the provisions of any other written law, where in a written law a time is prescribed for doing an act or taking a proceeding by a House of Parliament, the House may, by resolution, extend that time by a period not exceeding fourteen days.

Extension of time.

(2) Where an extension of time is granted under subsection (1), the doing of all other acts consequential thereto shall be deemed to have been extended accordingly.

(3) The power of a House of Parliament contemplated under subsection (1), may be exercised—

- (a) only once in a session of Parliament in respect of a particular matter; and
- (b) only in exceptional circumstances to be certified by the Speaker of the relevant House.

**39.** (1) The Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker of the National Assembly may, from time to time, issue such orders as may be necessary or expedient for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Act.

Speaker's orders.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the orders may provide for-

- (a) the admittance of members of the public to the precincts of Parliament;
- (b) the deduction of any monies due to a member in respect of refreshments or other facilities made available to members within the precincts of Parliament;
- (c) the appropriate dress code for members.

(3) The relevant Speaker may, from time to time as may be expedient, issue a Code of Conduct regulating the conduct of members of the respective House of Parliament whilst within the precincts of that House other than the Chamber.

(4) The Clerk shall authenticate copies of orders and Code of Conduct made pursuant to this section and shall ensure that such orders are made available to each member

and are conspicuously exhibited for the benefit of the public within the precincts of Parliament.

(5) For the purposes of Article 94(6) of the Constitution—

- (a) the purpose and objective of the delegation under this section is to enable the Speaker to give directions for the orderly conduct of Members, members of staff and the public generally within the precincts of Parliament;
- (b) the orders made under this section shall be of such nature, scope and within the limits as specified under this section;
- (c) the principles and standards applicable to the order and Code of Conduct made under this section are the usages, forms, precedence, customs, procedures and traditions of the Parliament of Kenya and other jurisdictions to the extent that these are applicable to Kenya.

**40.** (1) The National Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act is repealed.

Repeal of Cap. 6 and transition.

(2) The repeal under subsection (1) shall not affect any privilege or immunity acquired under the repealed Act.



**FIRST SCHEDULE****SUMMONS TO WITNESSES** (s. 18(3))

To .....

Whereas your attendance is required to ..... (*state which House of Parliament or Committee*) in relation to ..... (*state subject matter*), you are hereby required (personally) to appear before the..... (*state which House of Parliament or Committee*) on the ..... day of ....., 20....., at ..... o'clock in the forenoon and to bring with you ..... (*specify the information/document required to be produced*).

Your reasonable travelling and subsistence allowance for one day will be reimbursed upon production of sufficient proof of expenditure. If you fail to comply with this summons without lawful excuse, you will be subject to the consequences of non-attendance laid down in section 27 of the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act.

Given under my hand this ..... day of ....., 20.....

Clerk of the Senate/National Assembly.

NOTICE: If you are summoned only to produce a document and not to give evidence, you shall be deemed to have complied with the summons if you cause such document to be delivered to the Clerk on or before the day and hour aforesaid.

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS (s. 18(7))**

I ..... of ..... an officer of the Parliamentary Service Commission/police officer make oath and state as follows:

1. On ..... 20..... at ..... (*time*) I served the summons in this matter on ..... at..... (*place*) by tendering a copy thereof to him/her and requiring a signature on the original. He/She signed/refused to sign the summons. He/She was personally known to me/ was identified to me by ..... and admitted that he/she was the witness.

2. Not being able to find ..... the witness on ..... 20..... at..... (*time*) I served the summons on ..... (*name*) an adult member of the family of the witness who is residing with him/her.

3. Not being able to find ..... the witness or any person on whom service could be made, on ..... 20..... at ..... (*time*), I affixed a copy of the summons to the outer door of ..... being the house in which he/she ordinarily resides/carries on business/personally works for gain. I was accompanied by ..... who identified the house to me.

4. .... (Otherwise specify the manner in which the summons was served).

**SWORN** by the said .....  
this ..... day of....., 20.....

Before me

Commissioner for Oaths/Magistrate.

**MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

**Statement of the Objects and Reasons for the Bill**

The principal object of this Bill is to give effect to Article 117 of the Constitution that provides for the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament. To this extent, the Bill seeks to repeal and replace the National Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act, Chapter 6 of the Laws of Kenya.

It is important to provide for the privileges and immunities of Parliament, its committees and its members in order to protect Parliament's authority, dignity and independence so as to enable it to effectively carry out its constitutional functions.

**Part I** of the Bill contains preliminary provisions.

**Part II** of the Bill describes the precincts of Parliament and regulates the control of the precincts.

**Part III** of the Bill provides for privileges and immunities of members of Parliament including the freedom of speech and debate in Parliament. The Part also proposes various measures to ensure the independence and protection of Parliament and its members.

**Part IV** of the Bill provides for the establishment of a committee of privileges, for each House of Parliament. The mandate of this committee includes inquiring into the conduct of a member whose conduct is alleged to constitute a breach of parliamentary privileges.

**Part V** of the Bill deals with summoning of witnesses before a House or committee of Parliament.

**Part VI** of the Bill contains provisions relating to the publication and broadcasting of the proceedings of Parliament.

**Part VII** of the Bill sets out the enforcement procedures, including the creation of certain offences.

**Part VIII** contains miscellaneous provisions including the proposed repeal of the National Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap.6, Laws of Kenya.

**Statement on the delegation of legislative powers and limitation of**

**fundamental rights and freedoms**

This Bill does not delegate legislative powers nor does it limit fundamental rights and freedoms.

**Statement on how the Bill concerns county governments**

The Bill concerns county governments in terms of Article 110(1)(a) of the Constitution as it contains provisions that affect the functions and powers of the county governments as set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.

The Bill provides for the powers and privileges of Parliament, including the Senate, whose primary mandate under Article 96(1) of the Constitution is to ‘represent the counties’ and ‘to protect the interests of the counties and their governments’.

**Statement that the Bill is not a money Bill, within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution.**

This Bill is not a money Bill within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution.

Dated the 27th February, 2014.

KITHURE KINDIKI,  
*Senate Majority Leader.*