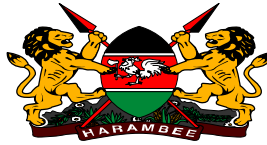


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – (FOURTH SESSION)

NO. 015

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR:

ON AMENDMENTS TO BILLS AT COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon. Members, in the recent past, a trend has developed where Members submit amendments to Bills just before the House moves to Committee Stage. In some instances, this has introduced new perspectives to the Bill thereby opening up debate. Indeed, I have had complaints from some Members who have felt that the House is being ambushed with new amendments to Bills and for which a decision is required. Further, we have had to delay consideration of some Bills as Members file their proposed amendments late, a case in point being the Community Land Bill. It is therefore imperative that this process be aligned with our Standing Orders.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 133 guides the procedure in Committee of the Whole House on a Bill. In particular, paragraph (2) states, and I quote;

(2) No amendment shall be moved to any part of a Bill by any Member, other than the Member in charge of the Bill, unless written notification of the amendment shall have been given to the Clerk twenty-four hours before the commencement of the sitting at which that part of the Bill is considered in Committee.

Hon. Members, going forward and for the good order during Committee of the Whole House, the following guidelines will be strictly adhered to:-

- (i) All proposed amendments to Bills should be submitted at least 24-hours before commencement of consideration of that specific Bill as per the Standing Orders;

- (ii) Amendments for which no notice has been given will not be allowed nor circulated except as approved by the Speaker prior to the consideration of the Bill in the Committee of the Whole House;
- (iii) Debate shall not be reopened during Committee Stage save for two or three Members speaking **only** for or against the proposed specific clause and/or proposed amendments thereto before the Chair puts the Question; and
- (iv) The provisions of Standing Order 133 will be observed in totality.

I thank you.

THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, March 22, 2016