



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT - (FOURTH SESSION)

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

(No. 14 of 2020)

**COMMITTAL OF A BILL TO A COMMITTEE OTHER THAN A
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Honourable Members, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2020) was read a First Time on 27th February, 2020. Standing Order 127 (1) provides that a Bill having been read a First Time shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee without question put. Despite the said provisions, Standing Order 127(6)(a) provides that the Speaker may direct that a particular Bill be committed to such other Committee as the Speaker may determine.

Honourable Members, I have since received a request to determine the suitable Committee to consider the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, (National Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2020). The Bill seeks to amend the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act (No. 14 of 2011) in order to merge the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). Part 5 of Chapter 5 of the Constitution, particularly Article 59(4) provides, and I quote-

"Parliament shall enact legislation to give full effect to this Part, and any such legislation may restructure the Commission into two or more separate commissions".

Honourable Members, this particular Bill is published following lessons learnt and challenges experienced during the implementation of the Constitution. You will recall that the Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission, established under Part 5 of the Constitution pursuant to the provisions of Article 59(4), was split to create three independent offices, that is, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ). As you are aware the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee established under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Constitution. Given this background, the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee will be valuable in reviewing the lessons so far learnt in the journey to implement the Constitution.

Honourable Members, I therefore direct that the Bill stands committed to the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee to discharge the functions specified under Standing Order 127(3) and (3A) relating to public participation.

It is so directed.

I Thank You!


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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020