



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT - (FOURTH SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(No. 021 of 2020)

COVID-19 RESPONSE MEASURES BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Honourable Members,

As you are aware, the Country continues to grapple with the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Government of Kenya has taken various measures to curb the spread of the pandemic. In furtherance of the initiatives by the Government, the National Assembly continues to implement response measures and targeted interventions to mitigate the spread of the virus, and prevent transmission of the disease within the precincts of Parliament. The said measures are in line with guidance and advice by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). Towards this end, I, as your Speaker, have issued several guidelines and undertaken to continue reviewing the guidelines to incorporate any new measures, as necessary, including review of the manner of conducting House and Committee business.

Honourable Members will recall that part of our early response measures included encouraging all Members of Parliament and members of staff to undergo voluntary COVID-19 testing and that a voluntary testing exercise for Members and staff was carried out between 2nd and 4th April, 2020, here, within the precincts. In this regard, I wish to confirm that for all the individuals who tested, including all Members of Parliament from both Houses and members of staff, **there were, quite thankfully, I must say, NO confirmed COVID-19 cases** as formally communicated by the firm that carried out the exercise, Lancet Kenya Medical Laboratories.

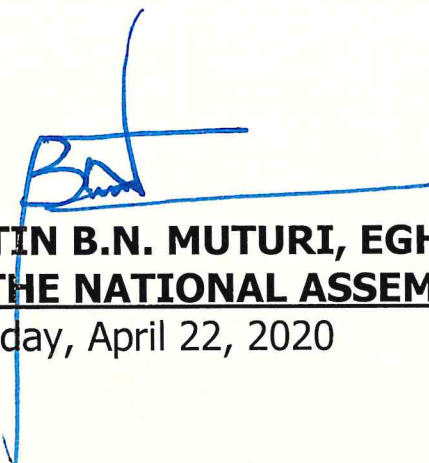
However, **Honourable Members**, let me sound a word of **caution**. We should not relent and we must continue to uphold the sanitization measures including wearing of face masks at all times, hand-washing or use of hand-sanitizers and observing strict social distancing , amongst other measures.

In this regard, **Honourable Members**, the Parliamentary Service Commission is in the process of organizing another testing exercise. This exercise, which will be voluntary, is targeted at all Members of Parliament and all members of staff. Further, staff of contracted cleaning companies working in Parliament will also be required to be tested.

Honourable Members, I encourage all of you and all members of staff to take advantage of the opportunity to take the test that the Parliamentary Service Commission and the Ministry of Health are providing free of charge. The dates when the exercise will be undertaken will be communicated as soon as practicable.

The House is accordingly guided.

I Thank You!



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

Wednesday, April 22, 2020