



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – (FOURTH SESSION)**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(No. 48 of 2020)

**ON
ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Hon. Members, I wish to make this Communication as a matter of public interest and to guide the House on the continued engagement between the National Assembly and the Executive and other organs of the State during this period as the country deals with the Covid-19 pandemic.

To begin with, **Hon. Members,** I wish to inform you that I have received a letter from the Head of Public Service regarding the engagement between the National Assembly and the Executive during the subsistence of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the correspondence, the Executive is cognizant of the complementary relations between the Legislature and the Executive in the carrying out of their respective constitutional mandates. Specifically, it is observed that as part of oversight, State Officers from different State organs are expected to appear before Parliament for various reasons. In this regard, there is need to provide alternative operational guidelines to ensure that the officers discharge their duties in a manner that serves the public good without compromising on individual or public health.

Hon. Members, In order to ensure that Parliament continues to discharge its mandate, the Executive shall continue to avail its members to attend parliamentary queries and summons during this period. However, in keeping with public health protocols requiring minimal physical contact, the Executive has established technological infrastructure and platforms through which state officers can attend Parliament through virtual means.

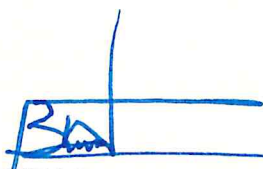
Hon. Members, It is a matter of public knowledge that there has been a spike in the number of infected cases in the country in the last two weeks and Parliament has also not been spared. It is therefore imperative that the necessary precautions be taken to control chances of infection among the parliamentary fraternity. Indeed, Parliament continues to take necessary steps aimed at contributing to the flattening of the curve of infection and protecting Members of Parliament, staff and essential visitors from infection. Undeniably, **Hon. Members,** Committee activities bring together persons from all walks of life notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has no testing capacity for the disease. In this regard, I have acceded to the request by the Executive. Henceforth, all Committee sittings will be held virtually unless otherwise stated with my express authorization. These measures are further to my earlier directives to ensure that government guidelines and protocols are adhered to.

Hon. Members, Arising from the above, I hereby further **direct** that all Committee sittings are suspended until **Tuesday, July 28, 2020**. Thereafter, Committees will only operate virtually as per my guidance above. Arrangements should therefore be made for **full** virtual proceedings of Committees before resumption. However, physical meetings will be allowed for purposes of electing Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons as communicated earlier.

In this regard, the election of Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the various Committees should be held by **Friday, July 17, 2020** to pave way for the fumigation and decontamination of the precincts of Parliament as per the public health guidelines.

In conclusion, Members of Parliament and staff are encouraged to undergo voluntary testing, and self-isolate in case they come into contact with a positive case or a suspected positive case in accordance with the Ministry of Health guidelines. In the meantime, the Clerk of the National Assembly is directed to ensure adherence to this Communication with respect to the administrative services herein. The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you.



THE HON. JUSTIN B. MUTURI, E.G.H., MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

