



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – (FOURTH SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

_____ (No. 055 of 2020) _____

**ON THE CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' BILLS BY
COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**

Honourable Members, Legislation forms one of the principal mandates of any parliamentary body world over. Indeed, Articles 94(1) and 95(3) of the Constitution vests great legislative responsibility on Parliament in general and the National Assembly in particular. It is a cardinal responsibility that the House should at all times discharge and prioritize.

Honourable Members, since the commencement of the Twelfth Parliament, many individual Members have sponsored legislative proposals on various subject matters. Many of these proposals have since been drafted into Bills having undergone the due legislative process and are at different stages of consideration by the House. Indeed, the House Business Committee continues to prioritize individual Members' legislative business to ensure consideration and conclusion. As a matter of fact, the Standing Orders have allotted Wednesday mornings as a day for the consideration of individual Members' business to ensure unimpeded consideration of such business from the busy schedule of the House. During this Part of the Session, priority is accorded to individual Members' business during the Sittings of the House of Thursday Mornings.

Honourable Members the attention of the House Business Committee has however been drawn to apparent lackluster prioritization and processing of individual Members' Bills by some Committees of the House.

As a matter of fact, the Committee has been blamed by a section of the House for giving priority to individual Members Bills originating in the **Senate** at the expense of a similar category of Bills sponsored by individual Members of the National Assembly.

As you are aware **Honourable Members**, the consideration and reporting by Committees is an integral part of the legislative process and forms the main avenue through which the House undertakes public participation on Bills as required under Article 118 of the Constitution. It is for this reason that the House Business Committee has been constrained to schedule the Bills for Second Reading in the absence of the respective Reports from the Committees. It has therefore become necessary that I guide the House on this matter.

Honourable Members, out of the forty-five (45) individual Members' Bills that are currently being processed by the House, twenty-four (24) have been considered by the respective Committees and the reports tabled before the House. The Bills are either undergoing Second Reading or awaiting Committee Stage. I take this early opportunity to laud the Committees that have concluded the consideration of Bills committed to them and tabled their respective Reports. However, twenty-one (21) individual Members Bills are still pending before several Committees. You will agree with me that this is by no means a small number given the arduous effort put in by the respective Hon. Members in conceptualizing the Bills in effort to resolve issues of concern to the people by way of legislation.

Honourable Members, from the foregoing, I wish to inform the House that Reports on the following twenty one (21) Bills are yet to be Tabled by respective Committees hereunder –

1. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture & Livestock *is yet to Table Reports on the following three (3) Bills-*

- a) The Kenya Food and Drugs Authority Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Endebess, the Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose, MP*, having been Read a First time on 2nd May, 2019;
- b) The Crops (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Gatundu South, the Hon. Moses Kuria, MP*, having been Read a First time on 26th June, 2019, and;
- c) The Sugar Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Kanduyi, the Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, MP*, having been Read a First time on 30th October, 2019.

2. The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information & Innovation *is yet to Table Reports on the following two (2) Bills-*

- a) The Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Gem, the Hon. Elisha Odhiambo, MP*, having been Read a First time on 25th September, 2019, and
- b) The Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Malava, the Hon. Malulu Injendi, MP*, having been Read a First time on 2nd October, 2019.

3. The Departmental Committee on Finance & National Planning *is yet to Table Reports on the following four (4) Bills-*

- a) The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Emgwen, the Hon. Alexander Kosgey, MP*, having been Read a First time on 31st July, 2019
- b) The Poverty Eradication Authority Bill, 2020, *Sponsored by the Member for Sirisia, the Hon. John Waluke, MP*, having been Read a First time on 11th June, 2020

- c) The Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2020, *Sponsored by the Member for Bonchari, the Hon. Oroo Oyioka, MP*, having been Read a First time on 28th July, 2020; and
- d) The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill, 2020, *Sponsored by the Member for Thika Town, the Hon. Patrick Wainaina, MP*, having been Read a First time on 28th July, 2020.

4. The Departmental Committee on Health *has not Tabled Reports on the following four (4) Bills-*

- a) The National Hospital Insurance Fund (Amendment), Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Navakholo, the Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, MP*, having been Read a First time on 20th March, 2019
- b) The Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Suba North, the Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP*, having been Read a First time on 26th June, 2019
- c) The Radiographers Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Murang'a, the Hon. Sabina Chege, MP*, having been Read a First time on 11th September, 2019
- d) The Breastfeeding Mothers Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Murang'a, the Hon. Sabina Chege, MP*, having been Read a First time on 6th November, 2019; and
- e) The Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service Bill, 2020, *Sponsored by the Member for Murang'a, the Hon. Sabina Chege, MP*, having been Read a First time on 14th April, 2020.

5. The Departmental Committee on Justice & Legal Affairs *has not Tabled Reports on the following three (3) Bills-*

- a) The Independent and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Kiambu, the Hon. Jude Njomo, MP*, having been Read a First time on 2nd May, 2019
- b) The Public Participation (No. 2) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Kiminini, the Hon. (Dr.) Chrisanthus Wamalwa, MP*, having been Read a First time on 30th October, 2019; and
- c) The Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) (No.6) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for West Mugirango, the Hon. Vincent Kemosi, MP*, having been Read a First time on 4th December, 2019.

6. The Departmental Committee on Labour & Social *Welfare* is yet to Table Reports on the following three (3) Bills-

- a) The County Governments' Retirement Scheme Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for North Horr, the Hon. Chachu Ganya, MP*, having been Read a First time on 8th May, 2019
- b) The Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by the Member for Kigumo, the Hon. Wangari Mwaniki, MP*, having been Read a First time on 24th July, 2019; and
- c) The Employment (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2019, *Sponsored by Nominated Member, the Hon. Gideon Keter, MP*, having been Read a First time on 26th February, 2020.

7. The National Government Constituencies Development Fund, is yet to Table the Report on *The National Government Constituencies Development Fund (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2019*, which is Sponsored by the Member for Tongaren, the Hon. (Dr.) Eseli Simiyu, MP having been Read a First time on 18th September 2019.

Honourable Members, as you will have noted from the list above, most of these Bills were read a First time more than one year ago and may lapse at the end of the current Fourth Session in December this year, in keeping with the provisions of Standing Order 141 *regarding lapsing and re-introduction of Bills*. In this regard, while I appreciate the heavy workload before all our Committees, **I encourage the Chairpersons of the concerned Committees to endeavour to prioritize the listed Bills and table their Reports in the House as soon as possible.** This will enable the House Business Committee to also prioritize the Bills for consideration in Second Reading and subsequent stages by the House in good time.

The House and the Committees are accordingly guided.

I thank you.



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

Tuesday, September 29, 2020