



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT (FIFTH SESSION)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
(No. 49 of 2021)

**ON SUSPENSION OF COMMITTEE SITTINGS
AND CONSIDERATION OF PRIORITY BUSINESS DURING THE
DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022 LONG RECESS**

Honourable Members,

As you are aware, at the rise of this Sitting, the House is scheduled to proceed on its long recess from tomorrow, Friday, the 3rd of December 2021 to Monday, 24th January 2022 in accordance with its Calendar for the Fifth Session. You may further recall that when approving the Calendar on 10th February 2021, the House did resolve that **Committee sittings will stand suspended from 13th December, 2021 to 24th January, 2022.** In this regard, all Committees will be required to suspend their sittings on the stated dates in order to allow Members to attend to their constituency duties and for staff to take leave.

Honourable Members, it is important to note the following priority business currently pending before the House and which ought to be disposed of at the earliest opportunity –

- (1) Nomination of a person for appointment to the **Equalization Fund Advisory Board**, which is before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning;
- (2) The vetting of a nominee for appointment as the Chairperson of the **Public Service Commission**, which is before the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security;
- (3) The vetting of nominees for appointment to the Office of a **Member of the National Gender & Equality Commission**, which is before the Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare; and,
- (4) Consideration of the **2022 Budget Policy Statement** for the FY 2022/2023, which is now before the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Honourable Members, It is instructive to note that the foregoing business has statutory timelines that will lapse during the recess period. In addition, you may recall that, in his State of the Nation Address to Parliament on Tuesday, 30th November, 2021, H.E. the President did appeal to Parliament to expedite and conclude certain pieces of legislation and statutory instruments. They include –

- (1) the Government Contracts Bill;
- (2) the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Bill;
- (3) the Irrigation (Amendment) Bill;
- (4) the Kenya National Library Service Bill;
- (5) the Huduma Bill;

- (6) the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill;
- (7) the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill;
and,
- (8) the Political Parties (Membership) Regulations, 2021.

The first Four Bills were passed by the House and are now in the Senate.

Indeed, **Honourable Members**, the President did urge Parliament to consider adjusting its calendar to ensure that all the critical legislation and legal instruments, including those relating to the elections, are concluded in good time. Fortunately, this House had, in its wisdom adjusted its Calendar so as to commence the Sixth Session on 25th January 2022 instead of the second week of February as required under Standing Order 27 regarding Regular Sessions of the House. This adjustment affords to the House three extra weeks, which comfortably accommodates the President's request.

Honourable Members, so as to ensure that the House concludes the priority business mentioned before, I will consult with the Leader of the Majority Party and the Leader of the Minority Party with respect to the dates for holding Special Sittings of the House, should it become necessary and the dates will be communicated to all Members. With regard to the processing of the Budget Policy Statement for the FY 2022/2023, the onus is on the Budget and Appropriations Committee to guide the House accordingly.

Honourable Members, as you may be aware, by practice of this House, certain business, particularly Questions and Statements ordinarily lapse at the end of every Session. However, I am cognizant that the unprecedented circumstances under which the House operated this year due to COVID-19 disease meant that Committees held fewer sittings.

Indeed, I am informed that **more than half** of the Questions asked and Statements requested by various Members are still pending before the relevant Committees and have the fate of lapsing at the end of the Session. In this regard, I have been petitioned by various Members to authorize all pending Questions and Statements to be carried forward to the next Session.

Honourable Members, in considering the foregoing request, I am aware that, unlike questions for which Committees simply obtain a response from the relevant Ministry or government agency, some Statements ordinarily require a Committee to conduct an examination or inquiry into the issues for response. Indeed, I have established that a number of Committees had actually commenced inquiries into issues raised in the respective Statements under their consideration.

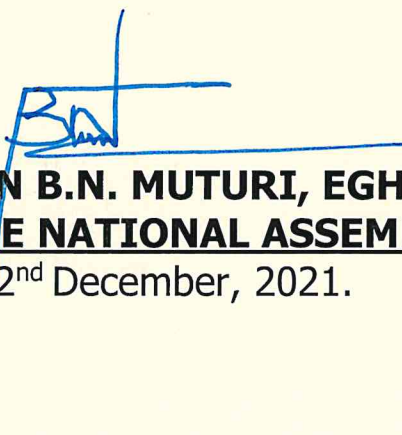
In this regard, **Honourable Members**, and in order to guard Committees from appearing to have commenced inquiries in vain, I will **exceptionally** permit Statements pending before Committees to be carried forward to the Sixth Session and be dealt with upon resumption of the House, next Session.

With regard to Questions, the existing practice applies. This implies that all pending Questions will lapse at the end of the Fifth Session.

Finally, **Honourable Members**, it is my highest privilege and honour to thank the Leadership of the House, Members of this House and staff for having braved the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure that this House continues with its legislative business largely unimpeded.

In Conclusion Hon. Members, my I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy festive season as well as a prosperous 2022!

I thank you!



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

Thursday, 2nd December, 2021.

