

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DATE: 08 JUN 2022
WEDNESDAY
BY: HON. PETER MWATHI
CHAIR ADMINISTRATION
AND N.S. COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – SIXTH SESSION

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

REPORT ON THE
PUBLIC PETITION NO.050/2021 REGARDING INCLUSION OF THE
NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Approved for table
M Dsma
8/6/22

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

JUNE, 2022

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report contains the Committee's proceedings on the consideration of the Public Petition No. 050 of 2021 regarding the declaration of the National Prayer Day as a Public Holiday. The Petition dated 13th September 2021 was presented by Mr. Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru in line with Standing Order 225(2)(b), conveyed to the House by the Speaker on 30th September, 2021 and immediately thereafter committed to Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security for consideration and reporting to the House pursuant to Standing order 227(1).

The Committee was required to respond to the Petitioner by way of a report addressed to him and laid on the Table of the National Assembly not more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of conveyance of the Petition to the House.

In processing the Petition, the Committee obtained the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government's submissions and met Mr. Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru. Indeed their submissions informed the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical and technical support accorded to it during the consideration of the Petition. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Committee and all the stakeholders who made useful contributions towards the preparation and production of this report.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security and pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 227(2) and 199 (6) it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this House the report of the Committee on its consideration of Public Petition No. 050 of 2021

HON. PETER MWATHI, CBS, M.P.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Petition No. 050 of 2021 regarding declaration of the National Prayer Day as a Public Holiday is dated 13th September, 2021 and was presented in the National Assembly on 30th September, 2021 by Mr. Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru. The Petition was subsequently committed to the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security for consideration and reporting to the House pursuant to Standing Order 227(1)

In its consideration of the Petitions, the Committee made the following observations:

- a) The Constitution and law give the National Assembly powers to enact a public holiday
- b) The preamble of the Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of God and it is only logical that a National Day of Prayer be dedicated to Him.
- c) There are a few national holidays with a religious basis namely; Christmas, Idd-ul-Fitr, Idd ul Azha and Diwali
- d) All Kenyans regardless of their faiths should be involved in the national prayer day and this can be achieved if such a day is declared a public holiday.
- e) The holiday will bring leaders in all sectors of the society together and promote nationalism and unity irrespective of denominational or faith preferences
- f) It was established for record that a number of countries have such a holiday including the US, Denmark and Zambia. The practice would therefore not be unique to Kenya.

The Committee recommends that the National Assembly amends *Part 1 of the schedule to the Public Holidays Act (Cap 110 of the Laws of Kenya)* to include *the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday and that the Holiday be observed on a Saturday within the Month of January.*

CHAPTER 1

PREFACE

1.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker,

1. The Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security is established in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 216 of the National Assembly. Its mandate as provided for in S.O. 216(5) includes, among others:

- i. investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and departments;*
- ii. study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;*
- iii. study and review all legislation referred to it;*
- iv. study, assess and analyse the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;*
- v. investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;*
- vi. to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments) ; and*
- vii. make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.*

2. The Committee oversees security related departments and state agencies that include National Security, Police Services, Home Affairs, Public Administration, Public Service, Prisons and Correctional Services, Immigration, the management of Natural Disasters, and Community Service Orders.

1.1 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

3. The Committee comprises of the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, M.P.

Limuru Constituency

Jubilee Party

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Fatuma Gedi, CBS, MP

Wajir County

Jubilee Party

Hon. Jeremiah Lomurukai, MP

Loima Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu, CBS, MP

Nyeri Town Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. (Dr.) Tecla Tum, MP

Nandi County

Jubilee Party

Hon. Peter Masara, MP

Suna West Constituency

Independent Party

Hon. Kaluma Peter, MP

Homa Bay Town Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Abdi Shurie, MP

Balambala Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Wambugu Munene, MP

Kirinyaga Central Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Aduma Owour, MP

Nyakach Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, MP

Kitui East Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Halima Mucheke, MP

Nominated Member

Jubilee Party

Hon. Nimrod Mbai, MP

Kitui East Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Col. (Rtd) Geoffrey

King'ang'i, MP

Mbeere South Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Oku Kaunya, MP
Teso North Constituency
ANC Party

Hon. Dr. Mishra Swarup, MP
Kesses Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Marselimo Arbelle, MP
Laisamis Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Rozaah Buyu, MP
Kisumu County
ODM Party

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Adan Sora Gindicha
Senior Clerk Assistant
Head of Secretariat

Mr. Joshua Ondari
Clerk Assistant

Ms. Brigitta Mati
Legal Counsel

Mr. Edison Odhiambo
Fiscal Analyst

Mr. Joseph Okongo
Media Officer

Delvin Onyancha
Research/Policy Analyst

Mr. Josphat Bundotich
Serjeant-at-Arms

Ms. Eva Kaare
Serjeant-at-Arms

Rodgers Kilungya
Audio Recording Officer

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 BACKGROUND

4. The Public Petition No. 050 of 2021 regarding the declaration of National Prayer Day as a Public Holiday is dated 13th September 2021 is sponsored by Mr. Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru and was presented to the House on 30th October 2021 and immediately committed to Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security for consideration and reporting to the House pursuant to Standing Order 227(1).
5. The Petitioner stated that he appreciated the efforts made by the Parliamentarians for coming up with National Breakfast prayer which takes place once a year. However, he submitted that Kenyans would like to be involved in praying for Kenya.
6. He further noted that the current situation happening in Kenya like locust invasion, Covid-19, mysterious accidents, rising suicidal cases and other immoral behaviors, as a God fearing nation it is high time Kenya turned back to God through prayers and repentance. History in Kenya indicated and pointed out various victories achieved when a country prays together and gave examples like in 1997 when the late His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi called upon the country to pray for rain, at Uhuru Park and when people left it rained. He also added that in the Holy Book every time people prayed and repented God restored and healed their land.
7. The Petitioner prayed that the Petition be considered and that the necessary laws be passed to make National Prayer Day a Public Holiday to allow and involve Kenyans in the prayer, and that one week Kenyans be involved in praying for various issues pertaining to Kenya and one day within the week be declared the Public holiday. His proposal was that the prayer week to be on the second week of January every year.
8. He further proposed prayer days during the week of prayer as follows:

Monday- Repentance

Tuesday- Love, peace, and unity

Wednesday- Natural calamities and protection within our boundaries

Thursday- economy,

Friday- Children, families and the future

Saturday- National Prayers Day

Sunday- Thanksgiving

9. The petitioner further requested the National Assembly to consider implementation plan where religious institutions will spear head the prayers, in schools' sponsor religion, corporate body find a sponsor religion or organize themselves, media conduct prayers and sensitize general public to pray, transport, Matatu sacco to organize someone to pray at departure and arrival, market leaders to organize prayers.

2.1 RIGHT TO PETITION PARLIAMENT

10. The right to Petition Parliament is provided for under Article 119 of the Constitution, which provides as follows: -

“Every person has a right to Petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including enacting, amending or repealing any legislation. Parliament shall make provision for the procedure for the exercise of this right.”

11. The Petition therefore falls under the Committees mandate under National Assembly Standing Order 227(1). In addition, standing orders 227(2) outlines the procedure for committal of a Petition to a Committee and transmission of its decision to the Petitioner. Further, the Petition to Parliament (Procedure) Act, 2012 provides for the procedure to be followed in the submission, processing and consideration of a Petition.
12. Articles 94 as read together with Article 95 of the Constitution further provides for the role and by extension the authority of Parliament in general and the National Assembly in particular. Generally, the Houses of Parliament exercise the legislative mandate of the people, deliberate on matters of national interest and oversight the exercise of power by other arms of government.
13. Public participation is now a guaranteed process in Kenya. The constitution in various chapters and clauses require that public participation be undertaken at all

levels of government before government officials and body make official decisions.

14. Public participation is having an open, accountable and structured process where citizens or people or a segment of a community can interact, exchange views and influence decision making. Actually, public participation is part of a democratic process.

3.0 HEARING ON THE PETITION

3.1 SUBMISSIONS BY ISAAC NJUGUNA

While appearing before the Committee on 9th November 2021, the Petitioner Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru submitted that;

15. He recognized the effort made by the Parliament in coming up with National Breakfast prayers which takes place once a year, however he felt that all Kenyans should be involved in praying for the Country.

16. Various victories had been achieved when people prayed together as a country, as in October 2000, the then President of Kenya, the late His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi called for three days fasting and prayer from Friday to Sunday to ask God for rains and on Sunday afternoon it was reported that the rains poured within an hour.

17. When Kenya was faced with incidents like terror attacks, prayers were normally held for victims, and appealed to have prayers as part of Kenya's lifestyle

18. In order to have a country that that was not tribal, no poverty due to poor governance, where people were being exploited for the greatness of the Nation, a Kenya that be shared equitably, there was need for prayer in order to attain a God fearing Nation, a corruption free, morally upright, with no robbery, a peaceful and prosperous country.

19. Examples in the Bible where people prayed; Jonah and Nineveh where people cried to God and God forgave them, and Nehemiah and Jerusalem's walls.

20. In the USA President George Washington, President Abraham Lincoln, President Ulysses S. Grant, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, embraced the Thanksgiving Day. In 1942 by an act of Congress Thanksgiving Day was signed into Law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hence each fourth Thursday in November is a Thanksgiving day.

21. In the United States of America, the National Prayer Day was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1952 as the National Prayer Day. It is observed every 1st Thursday of May. This year was on 6th May 2021 and next year will be May 5th 2022. Other countries include, Canada, on 2nd Monday October, Liberia, 1st Thursday of November, and Norfolk Island is last Wednesday in November

3.1.1 PRAYERS OF THE PETITIONER TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

22. The Petitioner prayed that;

- i) There be an appropriate legislation to declare National Prayer Day a Public Holiday.
- ii) Prayer week be considered where all Kenyans will participate and fast on voluntary basis. That Kenyans be involved in praying for various issues and only one day within the week of prayer be declared a public holiday. He further named the issues pray for as Repentance, peace, love and unity, natural calamities and protection within Kenyan borders, economy, children, families and future, and thanksgiving.
- iii) He proposed that the public Holiday be on Saturday on the month of January.
- iv) Makes any other recommendations it deems appropriate in the circumstances of the petition.

3.2 SUBMISSION BY REVEREND JOHN KIMANI

Accompanying the Petitioner was Reverend John Kimani from A.C.K Shalom, who made the following submissions;

23. Prayer is the power that moves the hand of God to do great things in our lives, and a great pillar in all the world religions.

24. In the USA, National Prayer Day is observed annually on the first Thursday in May, where people are asked to turn to God in prayer and meditation.

25. People from different faiths join in prayer on this day, some attend church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or monasteries of their choice to pray, and others will attend interdenominational prayer events.

26. In 1950s, an Evangelist Billy Graham led a movement that called for Congress and the president to proclaim a National Day for Prayer. Later in 1952 the Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer, President Harry S.

Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be observed on 4th July 1952. Observance is made every first Thursday in May each year.

27. History has it that, July 20, 1775 the Continental Congress issued a proclamation recommending a public day of humiliation, fasting and prayer be observed, in 1795, George Washington proclaimed a day of public thanks giving and prayer, in May 9 1798, John Adams declared this day as a day of solemn humility, fasting and prayer, and in March 3rd 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressional resolution, during the Civil War, which called for April 30, 1963 a day of fasting and prayer.
28. The benefits of prayer are developing a relationship with God, help you to gain an understanding of God's loving nature, prayer provides answers, helps you find direction in your life, prayer gives you direction in your life, gives you strength to avoid temptation, align your will to God's will, prayer and regular fasting can help you accept God's will, prayer can work miracles, prayer invites the Holy spirit into your life, and helps you become more like Jesus.
29. There is need to pray for leaders, wisdom, the sick, first responders, those in the medical field, for families, the jobless, and the Military.
30. Prayer is an act of communication with God, an act of showing dependence on God, an act of making requests be known to God and an act of cooperation with God.

3.3 SUBMISSIONS BY DR. FRED MATIANG'I

The Cabinet Administrative Secretary appeared before the Committee on 9th November 2021 and made the following submissions;

31. The preamble of the Constitution 2010 starts with an acknowledgement of the supremacy of God while Article 9(5) provides that Parliament may enact legislation prescribing other public holidays. The Public Holidays Act, Cap 110 of the Laws of Kenya, Section 3, stipulates that the Cabinet Secretary, Interior may designate any day to be a public holiday.
32. There are several justifications for turning National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day into Public Holiday;
 - a) The Constitution and law give the National Assembly powers to enact a public holiday

- b) The preamble of the Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of God and it is only logical that a National Day of Prayer be dedicated to Him.
- c) There are a few national holidays with a religious basis namely; Christmas, Idd-ul-Fitr, Idd ul Azha and Diwali
- d) All Kenyans regardless of their faiths should be involved in the national prayer day and this can be achieved if such a day is declared a public holiday.
- e) The holiday will bring leaders in all sectors of the society together and promote nationalism and unity irrespective of denominational or faith preferences
- f) It is noted for record that a number of countries have such a holiday including the US, Denmark and Zambia

33. Turning the national annual prayer breakfast into a public holiday can be achieved in two ways

- a) By amendment to Part 1 to the Public Holidays Act to include the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday in addition to the holidays specified therein
- b) By the Cabinet Secretary interior, invoking section 3 of the Public Holidays Act every year and gazetting any day as a national prayer holiday and not necessarily the one proposed by the petitioner.

34. In view of the implications of purposively declaring a National Day of Prayer as a public holiday under the public Holidays Act, it may be necessary to have participation discourse on the matter.

CHAPTER THREE

4.0 ISSUES FOR DETERMINATION AS PER THE PRAYERS SOUGHT IN THE PETITION

(i) There be appropriate legislation to declare National Prayer Day a Public Holiday

In respect of this prayers, the Committee established that turning the national annual prayer breakfast into a public holiday can be achieved in two ways

- a. By amendment to Part 1 to the Public Holidays Act to include the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday in addition to the holidays specified therein
- b. By the Cabinet Secretary interior, invoking section 3 of the Public Holidays Act every year and gazetting any day as a national prayer holiday and not necessarily the one proposed by the petitioner.

The Committee therefore agrees with the Petitioner that this feasible.

ii. Prayer week be considered where all Kenyans will participate and fast on voluntary basis. That Kenyans be involved in praying for various issues and only one day within the week of prayer be declared a public holiday. He further named the issues pray for as Repentance, peace, love and unity, natural calamities and protection within Kenyan borders, economy, children, families and future, and thanksgiving.

In respect of this prayer, the Committee adduced the following evidence:

- g) The Constitution and law give the National Assembly powers to enact a public holiday
- h) The preamble of the Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of God and it is only logical that a National Day of Prayer be dedicated to Him.
- i) There are a few national holidays with a religious basis namely; Christmas, Idd-ul-Fitr, Idd ul Azha and Diwali

- j) All Kenyans regardless of their faiths should be involved in the national prayer day and this can be achieved if such a day is declared a public holiday.
- k) The holiday will bring leaders in all sectors of the society together and promote nationalism and unity irrespective of denominational or faith preferences
- l) It was established for record that a number of countries have such a holiday including the US, Denmark and Zambia. The practice would therefore not be unique to Kenya.

Based on these facts on record, the Committee concurs with prayer by the Petitioner.

iii. The public Holiday be on a Saturday on the month of January.

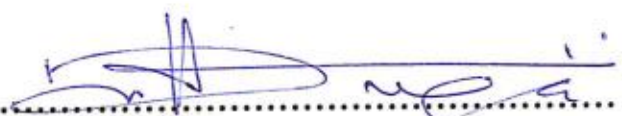
While no evidence was adduced before the Committee to justify the choice of Saturday, the Committee is of the view that Saturday is appropriate as it will have the least interruptions to the national economic life as already many establishments including Government facilities do not operate on Saturdays.

The Committee therefore agrees with the prayer by the Petitioner

CHAPTER 4

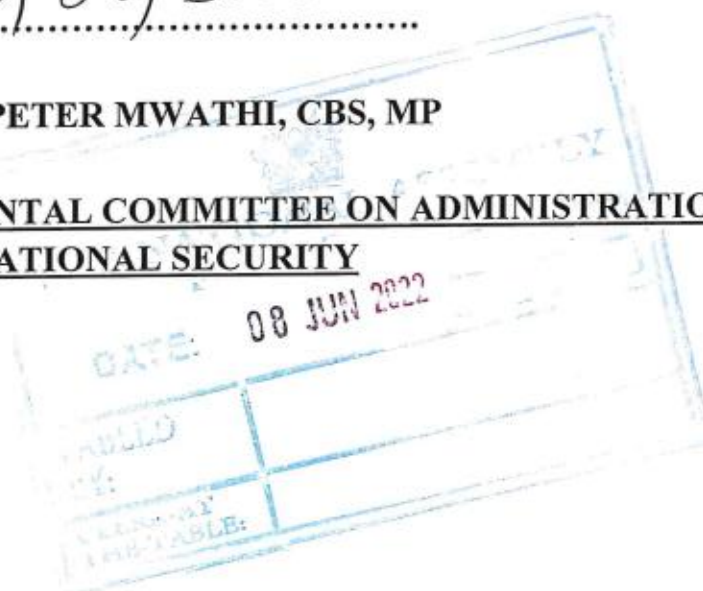
5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the National Assembly amends *Part 1 of the schedule to the Public Holidays Act (Cap 110 of the Laws of Kenya)* to include the *National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday and that the Holiday be observed on a Saturday within the Month of January.*

Sign 
Date *07/06/2022*

THE HON. PETER MWATHI, CBS, MP

**CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION
AND NATIONAL SECURITY**



MEMO

TO : DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE
SERVICES (NA)

FROM : PRINCIPAL CLERK ASSISTANT I

DATE : OCTOBER 7, 2021

SUBJECT : PUBLIC PETITIONS

The following Petitions was conveyed to the House on Thursday, October 7, 2021: -

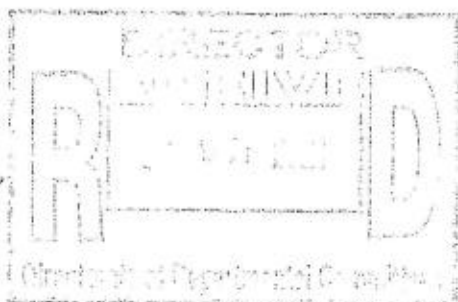
1. Public Petition on inclusion of the National Prayer Day as a Public Holiday (referred to the Departmental Committee on Administration & National Security); and
2. Public Petition regarding an appeal for Land Adjudication in Wasini Island by the Member for Lunga Lunga, Hon. Khatib Mwashetani, MP (referred to the Departmental Committee on Lands); and
3. Public Petition regarding pursuit of financial support of the Central Bank of Kenya in the matter Spire Bank Limited under section 34 and 36 of the Central Bank of Kenya by the Member for Alego -Usonga, Hon. Samuel Atandi, MP (referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning).

Enclosed, please find copies of the said Petitions for your necessary action.

Rachur!
RACHEL KAIRU

Copy: Clerk of the National Assembly
Deputy Clerks
Director, Legislative & Procedural Services

(Encls).



*Mr. Gindicha, SCA
Ms. Mwaura SCA
Mr. Macharia, SCA*

Please deal
*7/10/2021
SD/Dr*

Hon. Speaker,
You may approve.
Carap Kisai
2/1/21



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (FIFTH SESSION)

CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC PETITION

(No. 050 of 2021)

PETITION FOR INCLUSION OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER
DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Honourable Members, Standing Order 225(2)(b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any petition, other than those presented by a Member. Further, Article 119 of the Constitution provides for the right of any person to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including petitioning the House to enact, amend or repeal any legislation.

In this regard, **Honourable Members**, I wish to report to the House that my office has received a petition from Mr. Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru of P.O. Box 837 Nairobi calling for the inclusion of the now popular National Prayer Day as a public holiday to be prescribed under the Public Holidays Act in line with Article 9 of the Constitution.

The Petitioner, who at the onset declares his strong belief in the power of prayer, applauds Members of Parliament for their commitment in holding the Annual Prayer Breakfast that brings together various leaders in seeking good tidings for the nation. However, the Petitioner is convinced that the rest of the citizenry seeks involvement in these prayers, and suggests the establishment of the National Prayer Day and its subsequent inclusion as a public holiday as the best avenue of involving the entire country in this national prayer undertaking.

The Petitioner, **Honourable Members**, is equally convinced that intercessions made during the proposed National Prayer Day as well as in other prayer occasions will go a long way in addressing recurring or ongoing challenges facing the nation such as the Covid-19 pandemic, mysterious accidents, suicides, immoral behaviour, locusts invasion, and among many other calamities.

The Petitioner cites an event in 1997 during which H.E. the late President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi called the nation together for prayer at Uhuru Park in the face of persistent drought and starvation, and avers that the heavens opened and rain fell immediately after the prayers. He thus proposes for the holding of a week-long prayer week across the country on diverse national concerns which shall then culminate in the National Prayer Day.

Honourable Members, having determined that the matters raised by the Petitioner are well within the authority of this House, I order that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227(1), this petition be committed to the Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security. The Committee is required to consider the petition and report its findings to the House and the petitioner in accordance with Standing Order 227(2).

I thank you!



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

Date...30/9/2021.....



DLPS

Please deal:

[Signature]
14/09/21

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MAIN RECORDS UNIT
13 SEP 2021
RECEIVED (3)
NAIROBI - KENYA

IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A NATIONAL
PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN
OUR MOTHERLAND KENYA

REVISED PETITION TO INCLUDE THE NATIONAL
PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

DLPS - UP
to and *[unclear]* *[unclear]*
to *[unclear]* *[unclear]* *[unclear]*

13 SEP 2021

DLPS
to admit to *[unclear]*
about *[unclear]* *[unclear]*

BY
ISAAC NJUGUNA NG'ARU



REVISED PETITION TO INCLUDE THE NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

ISAAC NJUGUNA NG'ARU
P.O.BOX 837-00200
0728-246-220
NAIROBI
sirisaacngaru@gmail.com

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
P.O.BOX 41842-00100
NAIROBI

Dear Sir,

RE: REVISED PETITION TO INCLUDE THE NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

My name is Isaac Njuguna Ng'aru, ID NO: 24653380, a Kenyan Citizen by birth, a Christian who believes in God and great power in prayers.

I wish to recognize the effort made by our parliamentarian for coming up with National breakfast prayer which takes place once a year, However I have a strong feeling that fellow Kenyans would like to be involved in praying for our country Kenya.

Due to current situation happening in Kenya, for example Locust invasion, Covid 19, Mysterious accidents, rise in suicidal cases and other immoral behaviors, As a God fearing Nation it is high time we turn back to God through Prayers and repentance. History in our country indicate and points out various victories achieved when as a country prays together, for example in 1997 there was a great drought and starvation throughout the country, retired President the Late HE Daniel Moi Called Country to Pray for rain, climax was a Uhuru park, as people left the park the rain was all over. From Holy book every time people prayed and repented God restored and healed their land.

I kindly petition the National Assembly to consider this petition and pass necessary laws to make the national prayer day a public holiday, this is to allow and involve all Kenyans into prayer. My request is one week Kenyan to be involved in praying for various issues pertaining our country, only one day within the week will be declared the public Holiday. My proposal is that the prayer week to be on every second week of January every year, the proposed Prayer Schedule is as follows;

C

C



REVISED PETITION TO INCLUDE THE NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Days	Prayer Issues
Monday	Repentance
Tuesday	Love, Peace and Unity
Wednesday	Natural Calamities and protection within our bounders
Thursday	Economy
Friday	Children, Families and our Future
Saturday	Leadership - National and Counties (Climax - National Prayer Day)
Sunday	Thanksgiving

I also petition the national assembly to consider the implementation plan below where religious institutions will be spear heading the prayers.

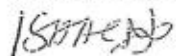
Institution	Spiritual Body
Schools	Sponsor Religion
Corporate Body	Find a Sponsor Religion or Organize themselves
Government Institution	Find a Sponsor Religion or Organize themselves
Media	Conduct Prayers and sensitize general public to pray
Transport	Matatu Sacco to organize someone to pray at departure and Arrival
Market	Markets leaders to organize prayers
Religious Bodies	To conduct services of prayer at their convenient time each day

To the best of my knowledge the petition has no pending issues before any court of law or other constitutional or legal body within Kenyan jurisdiction.

The Main purpose of this petition is to persuade the national assembly to pass laws to declare national prayer day as a public holiday.

May God Bless Kenya.

Yours Faithfully



Isaac Njuguna

C

C



**PETITION NO 050/2021 FOR INCLUSION OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER DAY
AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Honourable Chair, Mr. Isaac Njuguna has petitioned the National Assembly for the inclusion of the National Prayer Day as a public holiday. In his petition, he commended the parliamentarians for coming up with the event. However, he was of the view that the event should not be confined to Parliamentarians and leaders only. He argues that all Kenyans ought to be involved in praying for the nation, more so at this time when various crises have befallen the Nation such as locust invasion, Covid-19, mysterious accidents, suicide and other immoral activities. He noted that in the past when Kenyans prayed together, success was achieved. He implored the National Assembly to ensure that the entire second week of January in every year be a prayer week and one day in the week be a public holiday.

Honourable Chair, the preamble of the Constitution 2010 starts with an acknowledgement of the supremacy of God while Article 9(5) provides that Parliament may enact legislation prescribing other public holidays. The Public Holidays Act, Cap 110 of the Laws of Kenya, section 3, stipulates that the Cabinet Secretary, Interior may designate any day to be a public holiday.

Honourable Chair, there are several justifications for turning National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day into a public holiday:

- i. The Constitution and the law give the National Assembly powers to enact a public holiday.
- ii. The preamble of the Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of God and it is only logical that a National Day of Prayer be dedicated to Him.
- iii. There are a few national holidays with a religious basis namely; Christmas, Idd-ul-Fitr, Idd ul Azha ~~and Diwali.~~

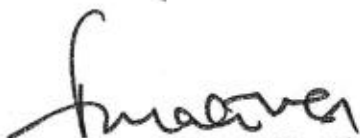
- iv. All Kenyans regardless of their faiths should be involved in the national prayer day and this can be achieved if such a day is declared a public holiday.
- v. The holiday will bring leaders in all sectors of the society together and promote nationalism and unity irrespective of denominational or faith preferences.
- vi. It is noted for record that a number of countries have such a holiday including the US, Denmark and Zambia.

Honourable Chair, turning the national annual prayer breakfast in to a public holiday can be achieved in two ways:

- i. By amendment to Part 1 of the schedule of the Constitution to include the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday in addition to the holidays specified therein.
- ii. By the Cabinet Secretary Interior; invoking section 3 of The Public Holidays Act every year and gazetting any day as a national prayer holiday and not necessarily the one proposed by the petitioner.

Honourable Chair, in view of the implications of purposively declaring a National Day of Prayer as a public holiday under the public Holidays Act, it may be necessary to have public participation discourse on the matter.

Thank you, **Honourable Chair**.



FRED MATIANG'I, PhD, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

3rd November, 2021

MINUTES OF THE 16TH SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH APRIL, 2022 AT 2.00 P.M. AT WHITE SANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA

PRESENT

1. Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, MP – Chairperson
2. Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP
3. Hon. Aduma Owour, MP
4. Hon. Peter Kaluma, MP
5. Hon. Marselino Arbelle, MP
6. Hon. Dr. Tecla Tum, MP
7. Hon. Halima Mucheke, MP
8. Hon. Peter Masara, MP
9. Hon. Rozaah Buyu, MP
10. Hon. William Chepkut, MP
11. Hon. Wambugu Munene, MP
12. Hon. Oku Kaunya, MP
13. Hon. Abdi Shurie, MP

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES.

1. Hon. Fatuma Gedi, CBS, MP – Vice-Chairperson
2. Hon. Jeremiah Lomurukai, MP
3. Hon. Nimrod Mbithuka Mbai, MP
4. Hon. Col(Rtd) Geoffrey Kingangi, MP
5. Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu, CBS, MP
6. Hon. Dr. Swarup Mishra, MP

IN ATTENDANCE-

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Adan Gindicha | - | Senior Clerk Assistant |
| 2. Mr. Joshua Ondari | - | Clerk Assistant |
| 3. Ms. Brigitta Mati | - | Legal Counsel |
| 4. Ms. Delvin Onyancha | - | Research Assistant Officer |
| 5. Ms. Eva Kaare | - | Serjeant-At-Arms |

MIN No. 44/2022:-

PRELIMINARIES AND COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2.23pm with a word of prayer.

The agenda was adopted after being proposed by Hon. Rozaah Buyu, MP and seconded by Hon. Oku Kaunya, MP.

MIN No. 45/2022:-

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON PUBLIC
PETITION NO. 40 OF 2021 REGARDING
COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES AND LOSS OF
PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF POLITICALLY
INSTIGATED SKIRNISHES IN GITHUNGURI,
KIAMBU COUNTY IN 1977

The Committee considered the report and made the following observations and recommendation-

Observations

1. The incident on which the Petitioner is basing his prayers to the National Assembly, happened on 9th December, 1997, over 25 years ago. The Petitioner made his appeal for compensation 10 years after the incident on 10th July, 2017.
2. Based on a Report made at Githunguri Police Station, vide OB number OB/07/06/12/97 CR 216/397/97 on 6th December, 1997, the matter under consideration in the Petition was investigated by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, leading to the arrest of Mr. Stephen Waweru Njenga, a brother to the Petitioner. Mr. Njenga was tried and convicted of murder and ordered to serve time in jail.
3. There is no evidence adduced before the Committee linking the attacks at the homestead of Mzee Njenga Waweru to the 1997 KANU nominations for the Githunguri Parliamentary Seat. The attacks seem to have been triggered by the murder of on Mr. Muigai Christopher. The eventual trial and conviction of Mr. Stephen Waweru Njenga confirms this position
4. No record was produced before the Committee to ascertain the status of the report made against messers Patrick Kangethe Njau, Evans Njoroge Karanja, James Kamau Muniu and Samuel Kinga Mukei who were reported vide OB/07/06/97 CR 260/397/97 as the perpetrators of the attack.
5. There is a land dispute in the Petitioner's family pitying the late family patriarch against one of the sons, Mr. Stephen Njenga Waweru. This could have also triggered the attack.

Recommendation-

In light of the fact that the prayer by the Petitioner is a matter which falls under the jurisdiction of the Courts, it is recommended that the Petitioner seeks legal redress through the criminal justice system.

The report was unanimously adopted after having been proposed and seconded by Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP and Hon. Halima Mucheke, MP respectively.

MIN No. 46/2022:-

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE PUBLIC
PETITION NO. 078 OF 2021 ON INTERVENTION
IN THE INCESSANT INSECURITY & BANDATRY
ATTACKS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

The Committee considered the report and made the following observations and recommendation-

Observations

(i) Prayer 1: Inquires into the causes of incessant banditry attacks and recommend prosecution of perpetrators of the heinous

In response to this prayer, the Committee sought the views of the Cabinet Secretary, Interior and Coordination of National Government and also conducted a fact finding visit to Rumuruti, to hold a meeting with key stakeholders and representatives of Petitioners. In its findings, the Committee identified six (6) pertinent issues to be addressed by the Key stakeholders as a way of resolving the persistent conflict in Laikipia County.

- a) The arid and semi-arid nature of Laikipia, County, has forced pastoralists to migrate from one place to another in search of water and pastures for their livestock. During the movement, they end up trespassing on community – protected territory hence generating tension and conflict.
- b) Absentee land owners have huge tracks of land left unattended are attractive to the pastoralists who easily gain access and eventually, start disturbing and displacing neighboring settlers
- c) Competition for land between pastoralists and farmers, land for grazing has reduced as a result of land being converted into farmlands and settlement. This has caused conflict between farmers and pastoralists with the pastoralists feeling that their traditional grazing fields are being taken over by farmers.
- d) High levels of illiteracy and the resultant poverty driving desperate youth into crime
- e) Most affected areas are community or conservancies owned, land ownership rows are creating conflicts
- f) Proliferation of illegal firearms especially to those herding livestock in the remote areas hence posing a lot of security risk to herders. Thousands of illegal firearms and ammunitions are owned by herders and bandits

(ii) Prayer 2: Recommends to the relevant National Government Ministry and/or State agencies to urgently deploy Kenya Defence Forces in Laikipia County to supplement the National Police Service in containing the security situation in Laikipia County and adjoining counties.

Article 241(3c) of the Constitution of Kenya provides that –

“The Defence Forces may be deployed to restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability only with the approval of the National Assembly”

Conclusion: The Committee was of the view that the deployment of a multi-agency force in Laikipia and surrounding countries adequately addresses the prayer by the Petitioner

- (iii) **Prayer 3: Recommend the establishment of a permanent military base in Laikipia County so as to facilitate a swift response to future attack**

The Committee noted the provisions of Article 241(3c) on the deployment of the military to restore peace in any part of the country affected by unrest or instability with the approval of the National Assembly.

Conclusion: The Committee was satisfied that the deployment of the multi-agency force was adequate to contain the situation in Laikipia.

- (iv) **Prayer 4: Recommend to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to develop and adopt a multi-sectoral security approach in conflict resolution and peace-building in Laikipia County:**

Evidence by the Cabinet Secretary Interior and Coordination of the National Government, points to the deployment of a multi-agency approach to addressing security challenges by collaborating with other stakeholders such as National Government Administrative Officers, National Police Service, Kenya Defence Forces, National Police Reservists and in some instances conservancy and ranch rangers. This had enabled the security agencies to chase out the illegal herders and bandits. As a result, people who were previously displaced from the affected areas had returned.

Given the foregoing, the Committee was persuaded that that Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government had developed and adopted a multi-sectoral security approach in conflict resolution and peace building in Laikipia County.

- (v) **Prayer 5: Recommend to the Ministry of Lands and the National Land Commission to fast-track issuance of title deeds to bonafide owners in order to stem conflicts arising from land ownership**

The Committee heard evidence from both representatives of farmers and herders who appeared before the Committee on 1st April, 2022 that competition for *land between herders and farmers has considerably reduced land for pastoralist activities*. This had caused conflict between farmers and pastoralists with the pastoralists feeling that their traditional grazing fields were being taken over by farmers.

In addition Land in most parts of Laikipia was community owned with equally large portions in the hand of conservancies. There was also an influx of people settling in Laikipia County after buying land. The Committee concurs that this had often created conflict, a situation which was made worse by delay in securing title deeds.

This calls on the National Land Commission and the County Government of Laikipia to embark on an urgent land demarcation exercise with a view to issuing Title Deeds to deserving cases.

- (vi) **Prayer 6: Recommend to the relevant Ministry to drill more boreholes across the County so as to reduce conflicts arising from water disputes**

Some politicians are on record for inciting and supporting bandits against neighboring communities for political support and influence. Competition for political and economic power among elites, further facilitate patron-client networks between warriors and law enforcement agencies acting at the behest of powerful individuals within the affected communities.

The Committee is of the view that the struggle for the scarce resources plays a big role in escalating conflicting not just in Laikipia but across the neighboring counties of Baringo, Isiolo and Samburu. The search for pasture and water are the major triggers of violence.

(vii) Prayer 7: Recommend to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to urgently vet and re-arm Kenya Police Reservists in the area and deploy more Police Officers in Laikipia County in order to enhance security surveillance and response.

The Committee established from the relevant Cabinet Secretary that National Police Service was carrying out fresh vetting of National Police Reservists in the troubled areas following reports that some of them were involved in criminal acts while others had abdicated their duties all together.

The National Police Reserves and rangers within the various ranches and conservancies have been retrained on their roles and will often be required to reinforce security agencies in security operations owing to their knowledge of the terrains.

Recommendation-

1. The Ministry of Lands and National Land Commission, should, within the next 12 months, issue Title Deeds to bonafide land earners to minimize conflict over land ownership, especially in Laikipia Count
2. The State Department for Interior and Citizen Services should within a month of the tabling of this Report initiate a disarmament exercise to mop up all illegal firearms held by residents in County, and indeed the whole nation.
3. The State Department for Interior and Citizen Services should within the Financial Year 2022/2023 initiate the process of recruitment of more National Police Reservists for immediate deployment to these Counties. For a start, 200 reservists each Laikipia with progressive increments in numbers in subsequent Financial Years. This should be preceded by vetting of the already serving reservists to weed out rogue officers aiding crime.
4. The State Department for Interior in conjunction with the State Department for Infrastructure and the County Governments of Laikipia, should prioritize the construction of security roads to provide easy access by security personnel in cases of distress calls by residents
5. The State Departments for Interior and Citizen Services and the State Department for Basic Education should spear head and implement an education marshal Plan for the region with the aim of increasing school enrolment through sensitization of communities to shun retrogressive cultural practices
6. The State Department for Interior should in the 2022/2023 Financial Year prioritize

purchase of motor-vehicles and communication equipment for security personnel in Laikipia County, and all arid counties to enhance their effectiveness in responding to distress calls from residents

The report was unanimously adopted after having been proposed and seconded by Hon. William Chepkut, MP and Hon. Oku Kaunya, MP respectively.

MIN No. 47/2022:-

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE PUBLIC
PETITION NO. 006/2022 ON STATE OF
INSECURITY IN SAMBURU NORTH**

The Committee considered the report and made the following observations and recommendations-

- i) Prayer 1: Inquires into the ceaseless cases of insecurity in Samburu North Constituency with a view to establishing the reasons as to why the security apparatus have not contained the spate of bandit attacks**

From evidence adduced before the Committee and substantiated by various witness accounts, Samburu County continued to experience sporadic cattle theft and murders occasioned by cattle raids, which were fanning tensions in Samburu North, Samburu Central and Samburu East sub counties. The conflicts were informed by traditional animosity and were being fanned by competition for water and pasture. The bandits took advantage of the vastness of Military Training Area to evade security personnel who respond to distress calls. The morans were emboldened by their fire power of M-16, G-3 and AK 47 rifles which they used to put stiff resistance to security personnel.

The conflicts are mainly occasioned by:

- i) Migration of huge number of livestock from one place to another. This gives opportunity to raiders to attack for restocking or retaliatory attacks.
- ii) Competition for pasture and water as the two (Samburu and Turkana) communities scramble for scarce resources especially during this prolonged period of drought.
- iii) Proliferation of illegal fire arms

In response to this prayer, the Committee sought and received views from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, and subsequently travelled to Baragoi in Samburu North Constituency on 1st of April, 2022, to ascertain the issues raised.

- ii) Prayer 2: Intervene in order to facilitate the recovery of stolen livestock and compensate victims for the loss of their source of livelihood in cases where state agencies fail to recover the stolen livestock**

The Committee established that the Government has not set aside any funds to compensate victims of livestock theft/ and banditry. The prayer by the Petitioner is therefore not sustainable

- iii) Prayer 3: Cause the relevant State agencies to arrest and charge the hardcore criminals perpetrating heinous acts of banditry**

Protection of armed cattle rustlers by the local communities was cited by both Police officers and residents who appeared by the Committee as one of the main reasons why the culprits have not been brought to book. Police often face a hard task to get witnesses in cases where cattle rustlers/bandits are arraigned in court. This is attributed to retrogressive cultural practices that condone and glorify cattle rustling and banditry.

iv) Prayer 4: Recommends to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to beef up security in the region, particularly in Baragoi town and deploy long term measures to preserve security.

In respect of this Prayer the Committee established thus:

- i) Proliferation of illegal firearms especially to those herding livestock in the remote areas poses a lot of security risk to herders. Thousands of illegal firearms are in the hands of residents of Samburu County, Morans use the rifles they own to engage security personnel in the area.
- ii) Inadequate number of security personnel deployed in the vast terrain coupled with poor kitting and facilitation of the officers in terms of transport and communication equipment,
- iii) The vast terrain, especially the Military Training Area which has poor infrastructure, poor communication network and harsh topographical features provide strategic advantages to bandits, hard-core criminals and cattle rustlers during attacks

Recommendations-

- i) Proliferation of illegal firearms especially to those herding livestock in the remote areas poses a lot of security risk to herders. Thousands of illegal firearms are in the hands of residents of Samburu County, Morans use the rifles they own to engage security personnel in the area.
- ii) Inadequate number of security personnel deployed in the vast terrain coupled with poor kitting and facilitation of the officers in terms of transport and communication equipment,
- iii) The vast terrain, especially the Military Training Area which has poor infrastructure, poor communication network and harsh topographical features provide strategic advantages to bandits, hard-core criminals and cattle rustlers during attacks

The report was unanimously adopted after having been proposed and seconded by Hon. Peter Kaluma, MP and Hon. Wambugu Munene, MP respectively.

MIN No. 48/2022:-

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE PUBLIC PETITION NO. 50 OF 2021 REGARDING INCLUSION OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

The Committee considered the report and made the following observations and recommendations-

Observations-

(i) There be appropriate legislation to declare National Prayer Day a Public Holiday

In respect of this prayers, the Committee established that turning the national annual prayer breakfast into a public holiday can be achieved in two ways-

- a. By amendment to Part 1 to the Public Holidays Act to include the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday in addition to the holidays specified therein
- b. By the Cabinet Secretary interior, invoking section 3 of the Public Holidays Act every year and gazetting any day as a national prayer holiday and not necessarily the one proposed by the petitioner.

The Committee therefore agrees with the Petitioner that this a feasible.

ii. Prayer week be considered where all Kenyans will participate and fast on voluntary basis. That Kenyans be involved in praying for various issues and only one day within the week of prayer be declared a public holiday. He further named the issues pray for as Repentance, peace, love and unity, natural calamities and protection within Kenyan borders, economy, children, families and future, and thanksgiving.

In respect of this prayer, the Committee adduced the following evidence:

- a) The Constitution and law give the National Assembly powers to enact a public holiday
- b) The preamble of the Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of God and it is only logical that a National Day of Prayer be dedicated to Him.
- c) There are a few national holidays with a religious basis namely; Christmas, Idd-ul-Fitr, Idd ul Azha and Diwali
- d) All Kenyans regardless of their faiths should be involved in the national prayer day and this can be achieved if such a day is declared a public holiday.
- e) The holiday will bring leaders in all sectors of the society together and promote nationalism and unity irrespective of denominational or faith preferences
- f) It was established for record that a number of countries have such a holiday including the US, Denmark and Zambia. The practice would therefore not be unique to Kenya.

Based on these facts on record, the Committee concurs with prayer by the Petitioner.

iii. The public Holiday be on a Saturday on the month of January.

While no evidence was adduced before the Committee to justify the choice of Saturday, the Committee is of the view that Saturday is appropriate as it will have

the least interruptions to the national economic life as already many establishments including Government facilities do not operate on Saturdays.

The Committee therefore agrees with the prayer by the Petitioner

Recommendation-

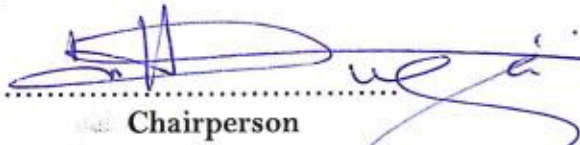
The Committee recommends that the National Assembly amends Part 1 of the schedule to the Public Holidays Act (Cap 110 of the Laws of Kenya) to include the National Annual Prayer Breakfast Day as a public holiday and that the Holiday be observed on a Saturday within the Month of January.

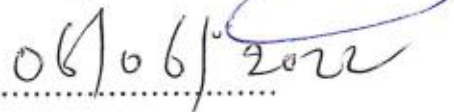
The report was unanimously adopted after having been proposed and seconded by Hon. Aduma Owour, MP and Hon. Abdi Shurie, MP respectively.

MIN No. 49/2022:-

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to transact, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at ten minutes past four o'clock. The next meeting will be by notice.

Signed.....
Chairperson

Date.....

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & NATIONAL SECURITY

ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE- ADOPTION — PUBLIC PETITION NO.

DATE: 26/04/2022

TIME: 2.00pm

VENUE: WHITESANDS, HOTEL

AGENDA: ADOPTION OF PETITIONS

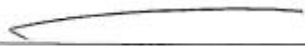


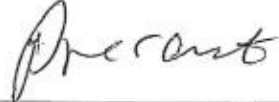






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40/2021, No 50

07/2021, No 006

2022

NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS,MP - Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Fatuma Gedi, CBS, MP - Vice Chairperson	
3.	Hon. George Peter Kaluma, MP	
4.	Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, MP	
5.	Hon. Aduma Owuor, MP	
6.	Hon. Dr. Tecla Chebet Tum, MP	
7.	Hon. Halima Mucheke, MP	Zoom
8.	Hon. Marselino Malimo Arbelle, MP	Zoom
9.	Hon. Nimrod Mbithuka Mbai, MP	Zoom
10.	Hon. Ngunjiri Wambugu, MP	

		
11.	Hon. Abdi Omar Shurie, MP	
12.	Hon. Col (Rtd) Geoffrey Kingangi, MP	
13.	Hon. Peter Masara, MP	
14.	Hon. Oku Kaunya, MP	
15.	Hon. Rozaah Buyu, MP	
16.	Hon. Jeremiah Lomurukai, MP	
17.	Hon. William Chepkut, MP	
18.	Hon. Swarup Mishra, MP	
19.	Hon. Wambugu Munene, MP	

Signed.....Date.....

Adan Gindicha,
Senior Clerk Assistant,
Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security.

Signed.....Date.....

Peter Chemweno,
Director, Directorate of Departmental Committee Services

PRESENTATION BY REV. JOHN KIMANI A.C.K SHALOM ON IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A NATIONAL PRAYER DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN KENYA ON 9TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 11.00HRS TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KENYA.

Definition: prayer is the power that moves the hand of God to do great things in our lives, it is a great pillar in all the world religions.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (Focus on U.S.A)

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

For many, prayer is an integral part of daily life. Prayer offers a rich connection to our spiritual lives, nurturing our relationships and faith. It also provides comfort in times of crisis or need.

HOW TO OBSERVE IT

People of many different faiths join in prayer on this day. While some will attend the church, synagogue, mosque, temple or monasteries of their choice to pray, others will attend interdenominational prayer events. Some will join prayer groups or meditate. Use #NationalDayOfPrayer to post on social media.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HISTORY

In the early 1950s, an evangelical movement called for Congress and the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer. The movement grew and a young leader, Evangelist Billy Graham, led services for approximately 20,000 on the steps of the Capitol on February 3, 1952. Later that year, Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer. President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be

observed on July 4, 1952. Each year since that date, Americans have observed the day in their own way. The observance moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan and has been proclaimed each year since.

As a Nation, presidents and government officials have called for national days of prayer or thanks intermittently since before the country's existence.

- July 20, 1775 – The Continental Congress issued a proclamation recommending “a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer” be observed.
- In 1795 – George Washington proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.
- May 9, 1798 – John Adams declared this day as “a day of solemn humility, fasting, and prayer.”
- March 1863 – On March 3, Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressional resolution, during the Civil War, which called for April 30, 1863, as a day of fasting and prayer.

10 benefits of prayers

1

Prayer helps you develop a relationship with God

Just like your parents here on earth, your Heavenly Father wants to hear from you and talk to you. When you pray, He listens. Then He answers your prayers in the form of thoughts, spiritual feelings, scripture, or even the actions of other people.

2

Prayer helps you gain an understanding of God's loving nature

The scriptures teach, “God is love” (1 John 4:8). You can feel that love as you speak daily with Him through prayer, seeking His guidance in your life.

3

Prayer provides answers

Praying and listening to the answers God gives you can help you better understand your purpose in life. God will help you understand why you are here and what you can do to return to live with Him after this life.

4

Prayer helps you find direction in your life

When you privately pray to God, you can work through serious decisions in your life. God always listens and often provides the specific answers and guidance we seek. Even when He chooses not to answer immediately or in the way we might have hoped, prayer itself is a way to find peace.

5

Prayer gives you strength to avoid temptation

Jesus counseled His disciples, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Through prayer, we can overcome temptations to sin. Pray for God's help to keep you from making wrong choices. This will give you the strength to do what is right.

6

Prayer aligns your will with God's will

The purpose of prayer is not necessarily to tell God how you want Him to do things. Rather, it's to better understand Him and His ways, bringing yourself into alignment with His will. As C.S. Lewis is often attributed as saying, prayer "doesn't change God. It changes *me*."

7

Prayer and regular fasting can help you accept God's will

Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before He began His ministry on the earth. As He did this, He communed with His Father in Heaven in prayer. Likewise, if you pray and fast, you can feel closer to God and better understand the things He wants you to do.

8

Prayer can work miracles

Throughout the scriptures, we see many examples of the Lord working miracles as an answer to prayer. In Old Testament times, the prophet Daniel was thrown into a lions' den because he refused to stop praying. When he prayed to God in the lions' den, angels appeared and closed the mouths of the lions. Through daily prayer, you can also experience personal miracles such as healing, peace, and forgiveness for sins.

9

Prayer invites the Holy Spirit into your life

As you pray daily, you invite the Holy Spirit to be with you and to comfort and direct you. The Holy Spirit can give you answers, help you feel God's love, and bring feelings of peace and joy into your heart.

10

Prayer helps you become more like Jesus

Jesus set the perfect example of prayer. If you try to follow His example through prayer, you will become more like Him and develop a better relationship with Him and Heavenly Father.

8 Prayers for National Day of Prayer

The unity that we show through the love of Jesus, and in the movement of the Holy Spirit, stands as an obvious marker of God's presence to the world around us. On the National Day of Prayer, Christians from all traditions gather to pray together, lifting up our hearts before the Lord on behalf of our nation. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 calls us to do just this as a part of our ministry of prayer. This is our joy, and honor to serve our neighbors and our country in this way for the glory of God.

Prayer for Leaders

Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessing of living in this Nation. Today we pray for our Leaders across this land, From the White House to our State and County officials. We ask for your wisdom and will to guide them in all they do. Strengthen each leader with resolve to do what is best for their country. Give each leader Your wisdom, discernment, and guidance as they lead.

Prayer for Wisdom

Father God, give the leaders of this Nation Your wisdom and discernment. I pray that they would seek wisdom, justice, mercy, and truth. I ask that you surround our leaders with godly influences. In Jesus Name, Amen.



Prayer for those who are ill

Jesus, you have said that “by Your stripes, we are healed.” I thank you for the victory won for us at the cross. You died and rose again not just for our salvation but for us to be set free and healed from addiction and illness. I pray for those who are sick in the body across this Nation, asking that you heal them. Please provide them the medical care they need. I pray not just for their physical well-being but their spiritual well-being so they may live life abundantly. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Prayer for First Responders

God, I thank you for the First Responders across this Nation. Be with them as they put themselves in harm’s way to keep us safe. Please give them your wisdom and discernment to know how to respond amid challenging situations. Send your angels to watch over and protect them. May they return safely to their families at the end of their shifts. Please guard their heart and mind against the stress and anxiety their job presents them each day. Amen.

Prayer for those in the Medical field

God, I pray for those in the medical field, caring for the sick in this Nation. Restore their strength and peace when they are weary; May they turn to you as their source of hope in such overwhelming times. Proverbs 11:25 says that those who refresh others will themselves be restored, so we pray blessings upon these caregivers. We also pray for their health that they will not get sick. Father, protect them against illness as they nurse others back to health. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Prayer for our families

Heavenly Father, I pray for the families across this Nation, asking that you watch over and protect them. Keep them safe from the attack of the enemy. May they see the importance of turning to you in good times and in bad. May your love fill their hearts for each other. God, I ask that there would be peace in our homes and not strife. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NB

1. Prayer is an act of communication with God

All relationships require communication. Our prayer is one central way we communicate with God. It is not just about getting our needs met. God calls us to pray in order to develop and deepen relationships with Him. God wants friendship. Jesus said in John 15:14-15 (NIV): "You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you."

The most important word for a successful relationship is communication.

2. Prayer is an act that shows our dependence on God.

It is an admission that we need God's help to live a fruitful and productive life. When we look at Jesus' life, it is clear that it was prayer that allowed Him to excel. In John 5:19, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing." Jesus was in effect saying, that on His own He did not have the insight or the ability to live an extraordinary life. "Very early in the

morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35 (NIV) Jesus' example is clear. In order to know and to do His Father's will, He had to depend upon His Father in prayer. If Jesus needed to pray and was dependent upon God through prayer, we certainly need to do the same.

3. Prayer is an act of making my requests KNOWN to God

In John 15:7, Jesus says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." This is a blank cheque drawn on the 'Bank of Heaven', and it is signed by Jesus Himself. God wants us to ask Him for what we want and need from Him. The Bible says: "Tell God what you need ..." Philippians 4:6 (NLT).

4. Prayer is an act of cooperation with God

Prayer is God's way of letting us partner with Him to accomplish His purposes. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples to pray ... "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV). In our prayers, we learn more about His will and play our role in accomplishing His plans. In many situations, God waits on us to ask before He acts, and so when we do pray, the impossible becomes possible.

Remember that prayer is not limited by space and time, and it opens the door to God's limitless power. Our prayers go straight to God and He has the power to change the course of history. Prayer allows us to know the heart of God. Our words going to the omnipotent God are powerful and can move Heaven and Earth.

Prayer for those facing Job loss

Lord, you are the God who Provides. Help those who are unemployed in this Nation to trust in you as they look for new work. Please also lead me to the right job. Please help me to be patient in the waiting. I trust you will close the doors that need to be closed and open the doors that need to be opened. Let this uncertainty be a chance to strengthen my faith in you. Let this job loss be the opportunity for you to rearrange my life for the better. Amen.

Prayer for those in the Military

God, I pray for all those serving in our armed forces, whether at home or abroad. Give them favor and victory to accomplish what they have been assigned to do. I ask that you give them safe traveling mercies; That you would watch over them and keep them safe. Lord, please guard their hearts and minds against the effects of war. Bring healing where healing is needed. Bring them back safely; I pray, Amen.

