

FACTSHEET

25



PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Directorate of Departmental Committees Services

2nd Edition

Factsheet No. 25

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL
COMMITTEES SERVICES

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Purpose and Acknowledgement

This Factsheet is part of the Kenya National Assembly Factsheets Series that has been developed to enhance public understanding and awareness, and to build knowledge on the work of the Assembly, and its operations. It is intended to serve as a guide for ready reference by Members of Parliament, staff and the public. The information contained here is not exhaustive and readers are advised to refer to the original sources for further information.

This work is a product of the concerted effort of all the Directorates and Departments of the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Joint Services. Special thanks go to the members of the *National Assembly Taskforce on Factsheets, Speaker's Rulings and Guidelines*, namely, Mr. Kipkemoi arap Kirui (Team Leader), Mr. Rana Tiampati, Mr. Kennedy Malinda, Ms. Anna Musandu, Mr. Samuel Kalama, Mr. Salem Lorot, Ms. Fiona Musili, Mr. Benson Inzofu, Ms. Laureen Wesonga, Ms. Anne Shibuko, Mr. James Maina Macharia, Mr. Morrice Shilungu, Mr. Finlay Muriuki, Ms. Rabeca Munyao and Mr. Stephen Omunzi.

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Directorate of Departmental Committees Services



Members of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning led by the Chairperson Hon. Gladys Wanga undertaking a fact finding tour of the Lamu Port Project.

Introduction

This Factsheet looks at the roles and functions of the Directorate of Departmental Committee Services. The Directorate was part of the original Directorate of Committee Services that was established in 2012 but split in 2018 as part of the restructuring of the operations of Parliament initiated by the Parliamentary Service Commission aimed at improving service delivery. The split created the Directorate of Departmental Committee Services and the Directorate of Audit, Appropriation and Other Select Committees Services.

The Directorate of Departmental Committee Services is the administrative service that offers support to the Members of Parliament who are members of the various Committees of the National Assembly. The activities of the Directorate relate to budgeting for Committees, preparation of Committee meetings schedules, procedural advice to Chairpersons of Committees with regard to Committee business, among other roles.

Functions of the Directorate of Departmental Committee Services

The functions of the directorate include: -

1. Support to committees of the House

The Committee Office provides administrative support to departmental committees, supporting the conveners and members in undertaking the full range of committee functions including the conduct of inquiries and the consideration of subordinate legislation and Bills.

2. Providing Procedural Advise

The Directorate is responsible for guiding and providing non-partisan advise to

departmental committees on application of procedures in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders and established Parliamentary procedure and practice including advising Committee members of possible procedural implications arising out of suggestions made in committees.

The directorate also advises the Chairpersons of various committees on any matter that requires their attention.

3. Custody of records

The Directorate of Departmental Committees Services keeps custody of records of the activities of the committees of the National Assembly. It maintains records of all proceedings of Committees including minutes of meetings, reports, papers presented by ministries and state departments, memorandum and written evidence by witnesses in conformity with the House's rules prescribed in the Standing Orders.

4. Provision of Human Resource

The Directorate provides non-partisan professional secretariat staff, research and administrative support and advice to the committees of the House including joint committees of the two Houses.

The directorate keeps abreast of major procedural developments in other jurisdictions regarding committees work.

5. Liaising with ministries and other institutions

The Directorate of Departmental Committees Services liaises with Accounting Officers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies with regard to issues/inquiries before committees such as response to issues raised by the Auditor General, petitions, questions, regulations among others.



Members of Public Investments Committee inspecting the stalled construction of Kenya Maritime Authority office building

The directorate also liaises with other legislative bodies and the public by responding to inquiries on the activities of the Departmental Committees and engaging them on the legislative process.

6. Ensuring public participation

The Directorate in line with Article 118 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 ensures that the public participates in the legislative process of National Assembly through publication in the media and parliamentary website of matters before Departmental Committees for public information and for the attention of witnesses.

The directorate facilitates Committees in undertaking public participation and inquiries including aiding the members of the public in accessing committees and making submissions on issues under consideration or inquiry by Committees of the National Assembly.

7. Coordination and supervision of committees

The directorate coordinates and supervises the functions and operations of Departmental Committees of the National Assembly ensuring that the committees, being the engine of Parliament, operate within their mandates and are properly facilitated to perform their oversight function effectively and efficiently.

8. Capacity Building

The Directorate ensures that Members of Parliament are inducted and continuously trained in light of the ever changing political and democratic space.

The directorate coordinates all activities, including travel and accommodation arrangements for itinerant Departmental Committees during benchmarking visits and attendance and participation in relevant International Conferences.



The Chairman of the Special Funds Accounts Committee addressing residents of Ngiwa Farm in Nakuru County

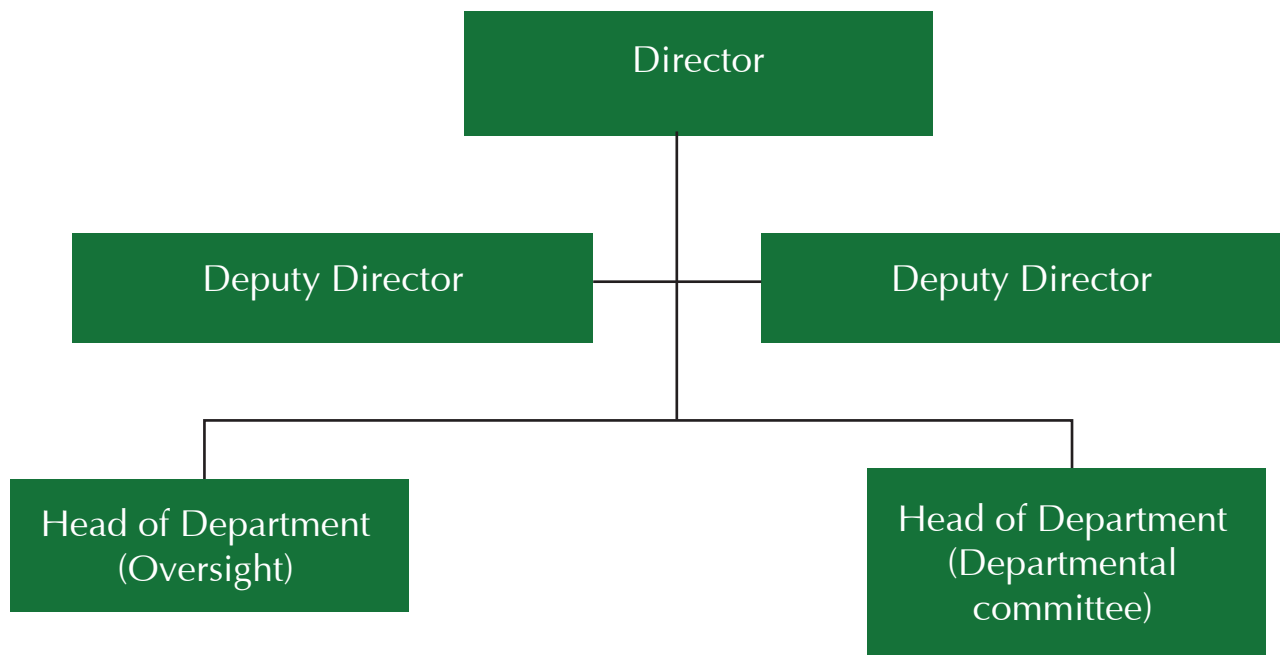
9. Administrative role

The Directorate ensures that committees perform optimally and that resolutions are followed by:-

- a) Preparation and circulation of agenda for committee meetings;
- b) Recording minutes of Committee proceedings;
- c) Correspondence between the committees and any appropriate authority;
- d) Preparing draft annual and special reports of the committees;
- e) Arranging and ensuring attendance of witnesses;
- f) Budgeting, mobilization of resources and planning for Committees;
- g) Conducting research for committees;
- h) Preparing briefing materials for Committee sittings

10. Performing any other duties as directed by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

Organogram of the Directorate of Committee Services



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