



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

_____ (No. 026 of 2022) _____

THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Honourable Members,

- 1.** The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an annual campaign that begins on 25th November every year, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and runs through to the International Human Rights Day commemorated on 10th December each year.
- 2. Honourable Members,** this year's theme, "***UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls***" will be commemorated globally and in Kenya. The focus will be to mobilize Member States, civil society and women's rights organizations, organizations working with men and boys, the UN System, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, human rights defenders, private sector, and individuals to stand in solidarity and call for a world free from Violence against Women and Girls.
- 3. Honourable Members,** the Government of Kenya, a key champion of gender equality, is co-leading the Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition under the Generation Equality Platform, committing to 12 Actions to eradicate all forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by 2026. These commitments will be realized through intensified campaigns and working together to remove systemic barriers that allow GBV to thrive.

4. **Honourable Members**, it is against this background that UN Women, in partnership with my office and the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) have organized the Personal Commitment Event, geared towards securing personal commitments of Members of Parliament and key duty bearers on their actions to end GBV in Kenya. This very important event will take place at the **Members' New Dining Room, Main Parliament Buildings on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 between 7.00 and 9.30 am.** A light breakfast will be served.
5. In this regard, **Honourable Members**, I cordially invite all Members to attend this event and join in showing solidarity towards the elimination of GBV in Kenya, and ensuring that women and girls live a life free of violence.
6. **Honourable Members**, may we also take cognizance of the fact that **Thursday, 1st December 2022** is World Aids Day. It is noteworthy that the spread of HIV/AIDS is a major concern as its spread is accelerated by Gender-Based Violence. According to UNAIDS, women who have experienced Gender-Based Violence are up to three times more likely to be infected with HIV than those who have not. Let us all prioritize creating awareness. Let us all protect our women and girls.

I thank you!


THE RT. HON. MOSES M. WETANG'ULA, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 30th November, 2022