



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - (SECOND SESSION)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_ (No. 055 of 2023) \_\_\_\_\_

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO  
THE ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS OF *WORLD COIN* IN KENYA**

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**Honourable Members,**

1. You will recall that during the afternoon Sitting of Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, the Member for Manyatta Constituency, the Hon. Gitonga Mukunji, MP, sought a Statement from the Leader of the Majority Party, regarding, *inter alia*, the steps that the Government was taking to ensure control of access to, collection and storage of Kenyan citizens' data, by foreign entities.
2. **Honourable Members,** given the gravity of the matter, I directed the Leader of the Majority Party to provide a Statement on the matter before the House on **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at 2.30 p.m.** Consequently, the Leader of the Majority Party presented a Statement signed by the Cabinet Secretaries for Interior and National Administration and Information, Communication and the Digital Economy. In the Statement, the Cabinet Secretaries averred that an entity known as ***Worldcoin*** was reported to be harvesting eyeball data from Kenyans in exchange for cryptocurrency tokens worth approximately Kshs .7,000/-. The aforementioned entity was not registered as a legal entity in Kenya but preliminary investigations revealed that the entity had hired a company in Kenya known as ***"Sense Marketing"*** to carry out the data capture on their behalf.

3. **Honourable Members**, having taken into consideration the comments expressed by Members of this House on the Statement that was read by the Leader of the Majority Party, I directed that the Cabinet Secretaries responsible for the two Ministries appear before the House on **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. The Cabinet Secretaries were to jointly apprise Members on the pertinent issues that arose from their Statement.
4. As you are aware, **Honourable Members**, on the afternoon of **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration and the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy appeared in the House and responded to concerns by Members. However, the Cabinet Secretaries could not satisfactorily respond to all the issues raised forthwith, as it became apparent that their explanations raised more Supplementary Questions than provided answers.
5. In this regard, **Honourable Members**, I directed the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration; and his counterpart for Information, Communication, and Digital Economy, to retreat and come before the plenary of this House at a later date, which is tomorrow, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023, to provide more comprehensive responses on the activities and operations of *Worldcoin* in the country.
6. Consequently, **Honourable Members**, I wish to inform the House that I am now in receipt of a request from the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration on this subject matter, seeking my consideration of various approaches for inquiring into the activities and operations of *Worldcoin* in Kenya. In his request, the Cabinet Secretary is suggesting options that will avail an opportunity for the House to get clear, more coherent, accurate, and detailed responses on the matter.

7. **Honourable Members**, the Cabinet Secretary proposes the following three approaches—

- a) That, the relevant Cabinet Secretaries, whose mandates have a bearing on the matter, including the Attorney General, appear separately before the plenary of the House to respond to the matter;
- b) That, the relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Heads of Agencies, whose mandates have a bearing on the matter, appear before the relevant Departmental Committees or an *ad hoc* Committee; or
- c) That, the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, whose mandates have a bearing on the matter, provide information on the subject matter to the Prime Cabinet Secretary, who would then appear before the plenary of the House.

8. **Honourable Members**, having carefully considered the three suggested options and to avoid any further equivocation on this matter, I am inclined to proceed with the second approach. In this regard, I direct as follows –

(i) **That**, the matter **of the activities and operations of *Worldcoin***, hereby stands referred to a Joint Committee of this House, comprising fifteen (15) Members, five (5) Members each drawn from the following three Committees—

- (a) Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security;
- (b) Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation; and
- (c) Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife.


- (ii) **That,** the nomination of Members to the Joint Committee shall be in writing to the Speaker, done by the respective Chairpersons of the three Committees, taking into consideration the majority party and minority party membership of the House. In this case, the Majority Party is to be allocated three (3) slots while the Minority Party should be allocated two (2) slots, by each Committee.
- (iii) **That,** I will appoint the Chairperson of the Joint Committee from amongst Members drawn from the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security;
- (iv) **That,** the mandate of the Joint Committee is to inquire into the activities and operations of *Worldcoin* in Kenya, and that the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, whose mandates have a bearing on the matter; and
- (v) **That,** the Joint Committee consider and inquires into the matter and submit its **report by Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

9. In view of the foregoing, **Honourable Members,** the two Cabinet Secretaries that were scheduled to appear tomorrow before this House, will instead appear before the Joint Committee to provide information on the matter.

10. Further, I wish to inform the House that I am also in receipt of two correspondences from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Investments, Trade and Industry, respectively, requesting to be given an opportunity to respond to questions in plenary at a later date.

This is owing to the fact that they have prior engagements to attend to at this instance, related to the ongoing Devolution Conference. The request is acceded to. Therefore, I urge the Leader of the Majority Party to schedule the Cabinet Secretaries to appear before this House immediately the House resumes from the upcoming August Recess.

**I Thank You!**

  
**THE RT.HON. (DR) MOSES M. WETANG'ULA, E.G.H, MP**  
**SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

*Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023*

