

Approved for tabling in the House.

Rat
SNA
9/6/2022

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 09 JUN 2022	Day: Thursday
TABLED BY:	Chairperson, Liaison Committee
	G-Chebet

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – SIXTH SESSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

LIAISON COMMITTEE

EXIT REPORT

FOR THE

12TH PARLIAMENT

(2017-2022)

Directorate of Audit, Appropriations and Other Select Committees
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

June, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PREFACE.....	3
1.2	Mandate of the Committee.....	3
1.2	Committee Membership.....	4
1.3	Committee Secretariat.....	9
2.0	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	10
2.1	Legal framework.....	10
3.0	ACHIVEMENTS.....	10
3.1	Guidance and Co-Ordination of Committees' Operations.....	10
3.1.1	Pending Business before Committees.....	11
3.1.2	Membership to Committees	11
3.2	Deliberate on and Apportioning Annual Operating Budgets Among Committees.....	12
3.3	Submission of Reports by Committees.....	13
3.3.1	Committee Chairpersons' Manual	14
3.3.2	Performance Reports for Committees of the National Assembly	15
3.3.3	Live Broadcast of Committee Proceedings.....	16
3.3.4	Documentary 'A House Defying Covid'	16
3.4	CAPACITY BUILDING	17
4.0	CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	18
5.0	RECOMMENDATIONS	19

CHAIRPERSON’S FORWARD

The National Assembly has thirty-three (33) Committees established pursuant to Article 124 of the Constitution, statutes and the Standing Orders of the National Assembly. Committees of the 12th Parliament were established in December, 2017. The Committees consist of a select number of Members of Parliament nominated according to political party representation in the House. Most of the business considered by the House sitting in plenary is first processed by Committees before it is submitted to the House.

Committees of the House review legislation, investigate specific policy matters and oversee government administration and performance. Other committees are established to consider internal matters in the administration of Parliament. In a Presidential System, most of the business considered by the House sitting in plenary is first processed by committees and presented to the House in the form of a report.

The National Assembly Standing Order 200A provides that “a Committee which is unable to complete its work before the expiry of its term shall table an exit report to the Assembly detailing reasons for such inability”. Subsection (2) further indicates that “the report shall be made available to the succeeding Committee which may consider it in preparing its work plan.

Noting the pecuniary circumstances occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic that disrupted normal parliamentary calendar and, indeed, other spheres of social, political and economic life, committees did a commendable job in the 12th Parliament to deliver on their mandate, the circumstances notwithstanding. Indeed, Covid-19 opened other frontiers of executing committee mandate hitherto unexplored. A key element of the opportunities was increased leverage on ICT, which made virtual meetings in the 12th Parliament a reality.

The Report contains all activities undertaken by the Committee during the 12th Parliament and the unfinished business for record purposes. The Report also includes the challenges experienced during its conduct of business.

Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment of Committee

1. The power of each House of Parliament to establish committees and to make Standing Orders for the orderly conduct of its proceedings, including the proceedings of its committees is provided under Art. 124 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.
2. The National Assembly Standing Orders has established various committees of the House with distinct Mandates. These Committees under the Directorate of Audit, Appropriations and Other Select Committees play a pivotal role of facilitating the National Assembly fulfill its constitutional mandate of allocation of national revenue, appropriation of funds and oversight over national revenue, expenditure and State organs.
3. The Liaison Committee is established pursuant to Standing Order No. 217.

1.2 Mandate of the Committee

4. The Committee is mandated to:
 - (i) guide and co-ordinate the operations, policies and mandates of all Committees;
 - (ii) deliberate on and apportion the annual operating budget among the Committees;
 - (iii) consider the programmes of all Committees, including their need to travel and sit away from the precincts of Parliament;
 - (iv) ensure that Committees submit reports as required by these Standing Orders;
 - (v) determine, whenever necessary, the committee or committees to deliberate on any matter; and
 - (vi) give such advice relating to the work and mandate of select committees as it may consider necessary.
5. The Committee is further mandated to consider reports of Committees that have not been deliberated by the House and report to the House on the consideration of such reports.

1.2 Committee Membership

6. The Committee comprises of the following members:-

First Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, MP
4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP
5. The Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP
6. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
7. The Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP
8. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
9. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
10. The Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP
11. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
12. The Hon. Gladys Boss Shollei, CBS, MP
13. The Hon. Paul Koinange, MP
14. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
15. The Hon. Maoka Maore, MP
16. The Hon. William Cheptumo, MP
17. The Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, MP
18. The Hon. David Gikaria, MP
19. The Hon. Julius Melly, MP
20. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
21. The Hon. William Kisang, MP
22. The Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, MP
23. The Hon. Joseph Limo, MP
24. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
25. The Hon. (Dr.) Victor Munyaka, MP
26. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
27. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
28. The Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, MP
29. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP
30. The Hon. Joash Nyamoko, HSC, MP

Second Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, MP
4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP

5. The Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP
6. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
7. The Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP
8. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
9. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
10. The Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP
11. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
12. The Hon. Gladys Boss Shollei, CBS, MP
13. The Hon. Paul Koinange, MP
14. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
15. The Hon. Maoka Maore, MP
16. The Hon. William Cheptumo, MP
17. The Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, MP
18. The Hon. David Gikaria, MP
19. The Hon. Julius Melly, MP
20. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
21. The Hon. William Kisang, MP
22. The Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, MP
23. The Hon. Joseph Limo, MP
24. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
25. The Hon. (Dr.) Victor Munyaka, MP
26. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
27. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
28. The Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, MP
29. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP
30. The Hon. Joash Nyamoko, HSC, MP

Third Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, MP
4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP
5. The Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP
6. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
7. The Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP
8. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
9. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
10. The Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP
11. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
12. The Hon. Gladys Boss Shollei, CBS, MP

13. The Hon. Paul Koinange, MP
14. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
15. The Hon. Maoka Maore, MP
16. The Hon. William Cheptumo, MP
17. The Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, MP
18. The Hon. David Gikaria, MP
19. The Hon. Julius Melly, MP
20. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
21. The Hon. William Kisang, MP
22. The Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, MP
23. The Hon. Joseph Limo, MP
24. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
25. The Hon. (Dr.) Victor Munyaka, MP
26. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
27. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
28. The Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, MP
29. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP
30. The Hon. Joash Nyamoko, HSC, MP

Fourth Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. (Dr.) Amos Kimunya, EGH, MP
4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP
5. The Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP
6. The Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, MP
7. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
8. The Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP
9. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
10. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
11. The Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP
12. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
13. The Hon. Paul Koinange, MP
14. The Hon. Clement Muturi Kigano, CBS, MP
15. The Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, MP
16. The Hon. Silas Kipkoech Tiren, CBS, MP
17. The Hon. Florence Mwikali Mutua, CBS, MP
18. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
19. The Hon. William Kisang, MP
20. The Hon. David Gikaria, MP

21. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
22. The Hon. Gladys Wanga, MP
23. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
24. The Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, MP
25. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
26. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
27. The Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, MP
28. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP
29. The Hon. William Kamket Kassait, MP
30. The Hon. Justus Mugali Kizito, MP

Fifth Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. (Dr.) Amos Kimunya, EGH, MP
4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP
5. The Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP
6. The Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, MP
7. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
8. The Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP
9. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
10. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
11. The Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP
12. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
13. The Hon. Paul Koinange, MP
14. The Hon. Clement Muturi Kigano, CBS, MP
15. The Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, MP
16. The Hon. Silas Kipkoech Tiren, CBS, MP
17. The Hon. Florence Mwikali Mutua, CBS, MP
18. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
19. The Hon. William Kisang, MP
20. The Hon. David Gikaria, MP
21. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
22. The Hon. Gladys Wanga, CBS, MP
23. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
24. The Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, MP
25. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
26. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
27. The Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, MP
28. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP

29. The Hon. William Kamket Kassait, MP
30. The Hon. Justus Mugali Kizito, MP

Sixth Session

1. The Hon. Moses Cheboi, CBS, MP – **Deputy Speaker and Chairman**
 2. The Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, MP – **First Chairperson of Committees & Vice Chairperson**
 3. The Hon. (Dr.) Amos Kimunya, EGH, MP
 4. The Hon. Maina Kamanda, EGH, MP
 5. The Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, MP
 6. The Hon. Kanini Kega, CBS, MP
 7. The Hon. (Dr.) Rachael Nyamai, CBS, MP
 8. The Hon. Sabina Chege, CBS, MP
 9. The Hon. David Pkosing, CBS, MP
 10. The Hon. Clement Muturi Kigano, CBS, MP
 11. The Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, MP
 12. The Hon. Silas Kipkoech Tiren, CBS, MP
 13. The Hon. Florence Mwikali Mutua, CBS, MP
 14. The Hon. Jeremiah Kioni, MP
 15. The Hon. Josphat Kabinga Wachira, OGW, MP
 16. The Hon. Moitalel Ole Kenta, MP
 17. The Hon. Gladys Wanga, CBS, MP
 18. The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, MP
 19. The Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, MP
 20. The Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
 21. The Hon. Abdullswamad Nassir, MP
 22. The Hon. Adan Haji Ali, MP
 23. The Hon. William Kamket Kassait, MP
 24. The Hon. Justus Mugali Kizito, MP
 25. The Hon. Richard Tongi, MP
 26. The Hon. Jane Wanjuki Njiru, MP
 27. The Hon. Sophia Abdi Noor, MP
 28. The Hon. Alois Lentoimaga, MP
 29. The Hon. Capt. Ruweida Obo, MP
 30. The Hon. Christopher Aseka, MP
7. Changes within the Committee membership during the term
1. Hon. (Dr.) Amos Kimunya, EGH, MP - 2019 - 2022
 2. Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, MP - 2017 - 2019
 3. Hon. Katoo Ole Metito, EGH, MGH, MP - 2017 – 2020
 4. Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, MP - 2019 - 2022

5. Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, CBS, MP	- 2017 - 2021
6. Hon. Maoka Maore, MP	- 2017 - 2019
7. Hon. Peter Mwathi, CBS, MP	- 2019 - 2022
8. Hon. Clement Muturi Kigano, CBS, MP	- 2019 - 2022
9. Hon. Gladys Boss Shollei, CBS, MP	- 2017 – 2019
10. Hon. Gladys Wanga, CBS, MP	- 2019 - 2022
11. Hon. Florence Mwikali Mutua, CBS, MP	- 2019 - 2022
12. Hon. Ali Wario, CBS, MP	- 2017 - 2021
13. Hon. Julius Melly, MP	- 2017 - 2019
14. Hon. Joseph Limo, MP	- 2017 – 2019
15. Hon. William Cheptumo, MP	- 2017 - 2019
16. Hon. William Kisang, MP	- 2017 – 2021
17. Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, OGW, MP	- 2017 – 2019
18. Hon. Joash Nyamoko, HSC, MP	- 2017 – 2019
19. Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, MP	- 2020 - 2022
20. Hon. William Kassait Kamket, MP	- 2020 - 2022
21. Hon. Josphat Kabinga Wachira, OGW, MP	- 2021 - 2022
22. Hon. David Gikaria, MP	- 2017 – 2021
23. Hon. (Dr.) Victor Munyaka, MP	- 2017 - 2020
24. Hon. Justus Mugali Kizito, MP	- 2020 – 2022
25. The Hon. Richard Tongi, MP	- 2022
26. The Hon. Jane Wanjuki Njiru, MP	- 2022
27. The Hon. Sophia Abdi Noor, MP	- 2022
28. The Hon. Alois Lentoimaga, MP	- 2022
29. The Hon. Capt. Ruweida Obo, MP	- 2022
30. The Hon. Christopher Aseka, MP	- 2022
31. Hon Paul Koinange, MP	- 2017-2021 (deceased)

1.3 Committee Secretariat

8. The Secretariat supporting the Committee comprises of the following staff:
1. Mrs. Florence Atenyo-Abonyo – Director, Audit Appropriations and Other Select Committees
 2. Mr. Peter Chemweno (Director, Departmental Committees)
 3. Mr. Nicholas Emejen (Deputy Director, Directorate of Audit, Appropriations and Other Select Committees)
 4. Ms. Christine Ndiritu (Clerk Assistant II)
 5. Mr. Bonnie Mathooko – Chief Research Officer
 6. Mr. Sydney Lugaga – Legal Counsel I

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Legal framework

9. Article 93 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya establishes Parliament of Kenya which consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. Further, Article 95 provides for the role of the National Assembly, amongst others, to:
- (i) deliberate on and resolve issues of concern to the people;
 - (ii) enact legislations
 - (iii) determine allocation of national revenue between the two levels of governments the National government and County governments;
 - (iv) appropriate funds for expenditure by the national government and national State organs;
 - (v) exercise oversight over national revenue and its expenditure;
 - (vi) exercise oversight over State organs; and
 - (vii) review the conduct in the office of the President, Deputy President and other State officers and initiate the process of removal from office.
10. In addition, Article 124 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to establish Committees and to make Standing Orders for orderly conduct of its proceedings including the proceedings of its committees.
11. The National Assembly Standing Orders has established various Committees of the House with distinct mandates.

3.0 ACHIVEMENTS

12. In discharging its mandate, the Committee held a total of eighty (80) sittings as follows,
- (i) Second session, 2018 – Eighteen (18) sittings
 - (ii) Third Session, 2019 – Thirty (30) sittings
 - (iii) Fourth Session, 2020 – Fifteen (15) sittings
 - (iv) Fifth Session, 2021 – Sixteen (16) sittings
 - (v) Sixth Session, 2022 – One (1) sitting

3.1 Guidance and Co-Ordination of Committees' Operations

13. The Committee, in execution of its mandate, considered the various aspects affecting operations of Committees as follows-

3.1.1 Pending Business before Committees

14. The Liaison Committee supported the mandate of House Business Committee, by monitoring the implementation of Business and programmes before the House and ensuring that all Committees respected the scheduling of business of the House as well as the functioning of the Committees of the House.
15. This was achieved through constant review of various business pending before Committees, especially that which had surpassed the stipulated timeframes as enumerated in the Standing Orders.
16. Where there were challenges experienced by various committees, including budgetary constraints, the Liaison Committee supported conclusion of the pending business in collaboration with the Office of the Clerk as well as other Directorates, including Directorate of Finance & Accounting Services, among others, supporting the work and programmes of Committees.

3.1.2 Membership to Committees

17. The Liaison Committee, on several sittings, held discussions with the Majority and Minority Party whips to deliberate upon Membership to Committees where it was noted that there were numerous Members who had been allocated a single Committee. This in turn disadvantaged the affected members especially during access to foreign travel visits aimed at granting them exposure and building their capacity, while raising awareness of parliamentary governance and strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation and regional development.
18. Where possible, affected Members, who were active in the House, were incorporated in capacity building programmes undertaken by the Liaison Committee. This encouraged individual members to not only be present in the House, but also to make relevant contributions towards the legislative agenda.

19. Vice chairpersons were incorporated in capacity building programmes undertaken by the Liaison Committee. This encouraged Vice chairpersons to not only be present in the House, but also to make relevant contributions towards the legislative agenda.

3.1.3 Linkage between the private sector and the Legislature

20. The Committee facilitated meetings between the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and various Departmental Committees to deliberate upon critical Bills pending before the National Assembly which were of concern to the private sector and would further assist in providing a conducive environment for doing business within the country.

3.2 Deliberate on and Apportioning Annual Operating Budgets Among Committees

21. The Committee developed a criterion for apportionment of Committees' operating budgets for foreign travel. During the Third Session, the following criteria was adopted –
- (a) 80% of the budgetary allocation was shared among the Committees according to the number of Members in the Committee and the nature of work that they performed. This was adopted in the Financial Year 2019/2020 taking into account the membership of each Committee and the mandate of the various committees;
 - (b) 20% of the budget was set aside to be administered by the Liaison Committee to support committees that had exhausted their budgetary allocation so as to deal with emerging important and necessary issues requiring urgent attention. A criterion was developed for administration of this budget.
22. A Committee which intended to request for support for extra funding from the 20% fund set aside to be utilized with the approval of the Liaison Committee needed to satisfy the following criteria –
- (i) The Committee needed to put the request for additional funding in writing indicating the reasons;
 - (ii) The Committee ought to have exhausted its allocation for foreign travel for the financial year; A Committee, which had exhausted its budget for a particular

quarter of the year, was entitled to request approval to spend money for a subsequent quarter.

- (iii) The Committee was required to prove prudent utilization of its allocation: - The foreign travel activities undertaken by the Committee which resulted in exhaustion of its budget should have related to the Committee's mandate and the Committee was required to indicate the said activities in the request;
- (iv) Importance of the foreign travel sought by the Committee and the House: -The travel activity to which the extra funding was requested should have been related to the Committee mandate and in the opinion of the Liaison Committee, ought to have been of great value to the Committee;
- (v) The number of Members of the delegation was limited to not more than five (5) Members and one (1) member of staff;
- (vi) Limited the number of times a Committee could seek extra funding – to allow for equity in sharing the budget; e.g. (to a maximum of one (1) instance)
- (vii) The number of Members in a Committee determined the extra funding request where a Committee with more Members was given preference.

3.3 Submission of Reports by Committees

23. The National Assembly Standing Order 200 (1) and (2) provides that “unless a more regular interval is prescribed under any written law or these Standing Orders, each select committee shall submit half yearly progress reports to the Liaison Committee. The Liaison Committee shall, within twenty-one days, compile the reports and submit a report to the House.” Committees are therefore required to inform the House the activities that they have been undertaking in each year through the half year progress reports.
24. The Liaison Committee, in the 12th Parliament, launched the inaugural Parliamentary Forum for Committees of the National Assembly. Noting that most business considered by the House in plenary has to be processed by Committees, Committees are therefore a very critical organ to the operations of the National Assembly.

25. Against this backdrop, the Committee organized the First and Second Fora for Committees of the National Assembly, held in October 2019 and November 2021 respectively, for purposes of showcasing the Committee System of the National Assembly, the work done during the period under review and to further demystify the role of Committees to the public.
26. During these Fora, the Chairpersons of the Committees made presentations about the mandates of their respective Committees, highlighting significant work done by their committees, areas that had significant impact on the lives of Kenyans, the economy, government policies including on the “Big 4 Agenda” of government.
27. During the two (2) events, which were broadcast live on national television, the following products, which the Committee championed their development, were launched -
 - (i) Committee Chairpersons’ Manual which serves as a guide on the operations, functions and general principles of committee management and conduct of committee meetings;
 - (ii) Performance Report for Committees of the National Assembly for the period December 2017 to September 2019;
 - (iii) Live broadcast of committee proceedings;
 - (iv) Swahili Version of the Standing Orders;
 - (v) Performance Report for Committees of the National Assembly for the period October 2019 to October 2021;
 - (vi) A documentary titled, ‘A House Defying Covid’; and
 - (vii) A production on committee chairpersons highlighting achievements realized.

3.3.1 Committee Chairpersons’ Manual

28. The Liaison Committee noted that the constitutional framework had placed the committee system at core of the National Assembly operations. Under this system, House Committees have emerged as an integral part in the discharge of Parliament’s constitutional mandate. As such, a sizeable volume of Parliament’s business finds its way

to the House Committees for deeper consideration and scrutiny than would be possible during plenary proceedings.

29. The handbook was therefore intended to serve as a guide on the operations, functions and general principles of Committee management as well as conduct of Committee meetings. It is also intended to assist the Committee Chairpersons to facilitate robust engagement with Members, committee secretariat, and stakeholders before, during and after committee meetings.
30. The Handbook has gone further to address some of the emerging issues bestowed upon Parliament by the Constitution. In particular, it provided the much needed guidelines in dealing with public participation, non-Committee Members, and witnesses that may from time to time be invited or summoned by House Committees.
31. This was a critical milestone in the operation of Committees in the National Assembly in the 12th Parliament as the guidelines revolutionized and advanced the purpose and intents for which Committee system has continued to thrive. The handbook therefore fills many gaps that the Leadership of the House has from time to time sought to address.

3.3.2 Performance Reports for Committees of the National Assembly

32. The Committees' Performance Reports was considered an important tool for monitoring and evaluating progress in committee work. These reports detailed the progress of committees in executing their mandate from December 2017 to September 2019 and from October 2019 to September 2021. The documentation is necessary in highlighting and creating awareness to the public about the work of committees of the National Assembly, their achievements, and related impact of some of the committees' decisions and/or actions.
33. Consolidating committees' work in the form of performance reports was a major step by the Liaison Committee in the 12th Parliament. It not only serves as documentation of committees' legacy, but also as reference material for posterity and institutional memory.

34. The two (2) reports therefore, were a culmination of numerous meetings convened by the committee chairpersons to discharge their respective committee mandates. The activities ranged from committee meetings within and outside of Parliament, engagement with stakeholders, vetting of state officers, hearing of petitions, budgetary considerations, among many other committee activities aimed at actualizing the National Assembly and members' constitutional roles of lawmaking, representation, and oversight.

3.3.3 Live Broadcast of Committee Proceedings

35. Live broadcasting of Parliament proceedings plays a key role in fulfilling the requirements of Chapter 4, Article 35(1) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) which states, that *every citizen has a right of access to Information held by the state; and information held by another person required for the exercise or protection of any right or fundamental freedom.*
36. Further, Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution provides that, Parliament shall conduct its proceedings in an open and transparent manner, its sittings and those of its committees shall be open to the public. Article 118(1)(b) obligates the legislature to facilitate public participation and involvement in its legislative and committees' business. Indeed, Article 118(2) of the Constitution provides that parliament may not exclude the public, or any media, from any sitting unless in exceptional circumstances the relevant Speaker has determined that there are justifiable reasons for the exclusion.
37. Additionally, majority of the public do not understand the operations in parliamentary committees and how they can engage and participate during such meetings. It is against this backdrop that the Liaison Committee facilitated the official launch of live broadcast of Committee proceedings.

3.3.4 Documentary 'A House Defying Covid'

38. The Committee facilitated the production of a 30-minute documentary, titled 'A House Defying Covid', aimed at showcasing the activities undertaken and milestones realized by Committees of the National Assembly, post Covid-19.

39. The documentary served to inform the public that amidst the turmoil the world was plunged in during the Covid-19 pandemic, the legislature worked through the unprecedented time to discharge its mandate while supporting the country in discharging its critical duties to the citizenry.

3.4 CAPACITY BUILDING

40. The Liaison Committee organized various capacity building programmes to adequately equip the leadership of committees, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons, with relevant skills necessary to effectively and efficiently manage their committees, while building synergies within the membership of their various committees.
41. The trainings were also geared towards assisting the chairpersons to adequately deliver on their mandate while ensuring that business referred to their committees was dispensed with expeditiously.

4.0 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES


42. Some of the challenges that the chairpersons of various Committee encountered in the course of carrying out their mandate include -

- i. Limited time for consideration of Bills - The twenty-one (21) days allocated for scrutiny of Bills is limited as it fails to factor in the size and content of each Bill. This led to numerous Bills pending before various Committees, with the timelines for consideration having lapsed;
- ii. Limited time for consideration of petitions - The timeline of sixty (60) days for considering Petitions was not sufficient. This led to proposal to establish a Committee on Petitions in the 13th Parliament and extension of the period for consideration of petitions.
- iii. Lack of adequate resources and delayed exchequer releases leading to inability by Committees to oversight and implement their work plans effectively.
- iv. Strict timelines for budget scrutiny process hence lack of thorough examination of budgetary allocations by departmental committees;
- v. Lack of effective feedback mechanism on the extent to which Committee recommendations adopted by the House had been implemented by government agencies.
- vi. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - the pandemic continued to impact negatively on the performance of committees. Committees were not able to effectively discharge their oversight function particularly inspection of projects, conducting inquiries among others.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

43. The Committee recommends that -

- (i) The Parliamentary Service Commission should allocate adequate resources and ensure that allocated resources are availed within the stipulated timelines to enable Committees implement their work plans effectively;
- (ii) The timelines for budget scrutiny be reviewed to enable extensive and conclusive examination of budgetary allocations to government agencies.

Signed..... 

Date:..... 9/6/22

HON. MOSES CHEBOI, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON,
LIAISON COMMITTEE