REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for seven minutes)

(Clerk confirmed the achievement of Quorum)

MOTION

COMMITTEES PROGRESS REPORT BY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Chairperson of Liaison Committee, I beg to move the following motion. That, this Assembly adopts the Committee progress report for the period from October, 2022 to 31st December, 2022 by the Liaison Committee dated 3rd April, 2023.

On our desk is the report on Committee progress. This is the committee's Report.

Constitution of the Committee

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Liaison Committee was constituted by the House on 26th September, 2022 pursuant to Standing Order No. 192 (1).

S.0 192 (1). Liaison Committee

There shall be a select committee to be known as the Liaison Committee which shall consist of the Chairperson of Committees as the chairperson and the chairpersons of all committees of the Assembly.

Membership

1. Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui - Chairman
2. Hon. George Karuiru - Member
3. Hon. Daniel Mugweru - Member
4. Hon. Simon Kanyutu - Member
5. Hon. Salim Edung - Member
6. Hon. Samuel Mugambi - Member

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7. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira - Member
8. Hon. Lekopien Sammy Parleto - Member
9. Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki - Member
10. Hon. Paul Leshuel - Member
11. Hon. Irene Wachuka - Member
12. Hon. Catherine Nyokabi - Member
13. Hon. Joseph Gitahi - Member
14. Hon. John Gichuki - Member
15. Hon. Stephen Nderitu - Member

Liaison Committee mandate

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mandate of the committee is as follows;

Committal of Bills to Committees and public participation

If for any reason, at the commencement of the Second Reading the report of the Committee has not been presented, the Committee concerned shall report progress to the Assembly and the failure to present the report shall be noted by the Liaison Committee for necessary action

The Liaison Committee will take the other Committees into account and ensure they report what they are doing. If they fail, the Liaison committee will take the necessary action. In this case the Committees have presented their reports to the Committee. We have gone through the Reports. This is why we are having this progressive Report from Liaison.

Vote of no confidence in the chairperson or vice-chairperson

A Committee may, a resolution supported by a majority of its members, resolve that it has no confidence in the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and a Member designated by the committee. For that purpose, shall thereupon report the resolution to the Liaison Committee which shall, as soon as it is practicable, direct the Clerk to conduct an election for the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, in accordance with Standing Order 159 (Conduct of election).

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this committee have a right to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They also have a right to a vote of no confidence if the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are not working properly. The committee should take this seriously. If the committee is failing, the standing order is very clear that the Committee is led by the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.

If the Chairperson fails to do the work properly, the Committee should sit and make a resolution of voting them out. The Committee should then report their resolution to the Liaison Committee. The Liaison Committee then directs the Clerk to conduct the elections. Members of any committee should be responsible for the well-being of their Committee. We can refer to the Standing Order number 159.

S.0 180. Progress reports

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1) 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.

Members should note that their committees should have a half yearly progress Report.

2) The Liaison Committee shall, within twenty-one days, compile the reports under paragraph (1) and submit a report to the Assembly.

This is what we are doing today. We have a compiled Report from other Committees. These Committees include Agriculture, Finance and Economic, Infrastructure, Budget, Cohesion and Implementation Committees. They have submitted their Reports to the Liaison Committee. This is why we are here with these Report.

S.0 192(2) The Liaison Committee shall-

a) Guide and co-ordinate the operations, policies and mandates of all Committees;

b) Deliberate on and apportion the annual operating budget among the Committees;

Members should note the Liaison Committee is that issues other Committees with their Budget. They also have the mandate to ensure the Committee work within their Budget.

c) Consider the programmes of all Committees, including their need to travel and sit away from the precincts of the Assembly;

When any Committee is travelling, they should pick an approval from the Liaison committee which is represented by the Chairperson. To have proper management, the Chairperson must approve. This is good for regulation to ensure that not all Members are out of the Assembly.

d) Ensure that Committees submit reports as required by the Standing Orders;

e) Determine, whenever necessary, the committee or committees to deliberate on any matter; and

f) Give such advice relating to the work and mandate of select committees as it may consider necessary;

The Liaison Committee shall consider reports of Committee that have not been deliberated by the Assembly and shall report to the Assembly on the consideration of such reports.

In this case all the Committees have been and they are active unless confirmed otherwise by the Members.

S.0 193. Committee to be limited to mandate

1) Except as expressly provided for in these Standing Orders, no matter shall be referred to a select committee except on a Motion approved after notice given.

2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, on a request by a Member, refer a matter to a committee.

S.0 209 (1). Order of Votes

1) The House Business Committee after consultation with the Liaison Committee shall determine the order in which the Assembly shall consider the Votes of the various Departments.

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Acknowledgment

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Liaison Committee, I wish to extend my gratitude to the Members of this House for the support they have continuously accorded the committee. Secondly, I wish to acknowledge the Members of the Liaison Committee for their continued commitment. Further, I wish to recognize your office and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly of Laikipia for the support from the two offices which has enabled this committee to perform its mandate in the best way possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Committee Members to table this report and recommend it to the House for adoption.

Committee's' Mandate

The County Assembly has eighteen (18) functional committees (8 sectoral and 10 select) whose mandates are derived from different standing orders. The following are the 8 sectoral committees whose mandate is derived from Standing Order number 191;

1. Transport and Public Works
2. Health Services
3. Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives
4. Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
5. Finance and County Planning
6. Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services
7. Education, Vocational Training and ICT
8. County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters

Sectoral Committees' Mandates

The mandate of the committees is derived from the Standing Order No. 191 and the Members can refer to that standing order to see the mandate of that committee. One of the committee's mandate is to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

The County Assembly has ten (10) select committees and whose mandates are derived from different Standing orders as follows

(1) House Business Committee (SO 151)

There shall be a select committee, to be designated to the House Business Committee, consisting of;

a) the Speaker who shall be the chairperson; Like in the morning we had a meeting and if you can remember you are the one who was chairing the meeting.

b) the Leader of the Majority Party;

c) the Leader of the Minority Party; and not less than two other members, who shall be nominated by Assembly parties and approved by the Assembly at the commencement of every Session, reflecting the relative majorities of the seats

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held by each of the Assembly parties in the Assembly and taking into consideration the interests of Independents.

The House Business Committee shall be appointed within seven days on Assembly of a new Assembly. We have already done this Mr. Speaker. The committee is already constituted and the Members are there. The House Business Committee is the one that plans the businesses of the House. Every business of this House must be approved by the HBC and a good example is this report. Mr. Speaker, the Members must understand that this is a very serious committee and the members arrive very early so that the other Members can find their businesses ready. So, the Members of this House should congratulate the HBC members.

(2) The Public Accounts and Investments Committee (SO) 185.

Mandate

a) This committee should report the accounts showing the appropriations of the sum voted by the House to meet the public expenditure and of such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee may think fit.

b) The committee should also report all accounts of all county public investments. I am very much aware that we have that committee and it is doing a very good job. Mr. Speaker, you have already committed the audit report to them and they are doing well in that area.

(3) Budget Committee (SO) 186

The Committee shall consist of a chairperson, and not more than eight other Members. One of the functions of that committee is to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of the of the county budget. We have that committee and the Chair is present. I am sure that the committee is working hard to ensure that the budget passes in this Assembly.

(4) Assembly Procedure and Rules Committee (SO 187)

Therefore, the Members can go to Standing Order No. 187 and confirm the same.

a) Committee of Privileges (SO 188)

b) Committee on Implementation (SO 189) its work is to see that all the motions that we have passed in this Assembly are implemented and if not, they should report into this House as to why they are not.

c) Committee on Delegated County Legislation (SO 190)

Achievements

The committees achieved the following in the period under review;

Committees' Sittings

Table 1: Committees' sittings

SINO.	Name of the Committee	Expected No. of minimum sittings	Achieved No. of sittings

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1.	Transport and Public Works. This committee is very active.	6	6
2.	Health Services. They achieved five meetings. In this committee there is a problem because they did not achieve their six meetings and the Chair should be very active so that they can get paid for six meetings because that is a loss.	6	5
3.	Education, Vocational Training And ICT. They managed to have four meetings and lost two sittings and this is money lost. They should ensure that all the members benefit.	6	4
4.	Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services. They achieved four meetings and the Chair Labour should pull up her socks to ensure six meetings and I am sure that this committee will do marvellous work.	6	4
5.	Finance And Count Planning. They managed five meetings. We have a problem because the members did not achieve the six meetings. I am going to follow up and ensure that next time we are having this report we will have achieved six meetings.	6	5
6.	Count Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters. They managed to have four meetings. As Liaison Committee, we are going to follow up and understand why they have only managed to have four meetings.	6	4
7.	Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives. The Chair is here and should take action because next time we will be having this report we would like to see 6:6. After the afternoon session I would like to confirm that we will be having a meeting with the committee clerks to arrange ourselves to ensure that we achieve all the meetings we are supposed to sit.	6	3
8.	Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. The Chair agriculture is present and he will note that they only managed to have four meetings. As Liaison we shall sit down and see why they did not meet their maximum.	6	4
9.	Public Accounts and Investment Committee. This committee is doing well because they achieved five meetings.	6	5
10.	Budget And Appropriations. They managed four sittings. We will follow and see why they have not achieved their six meetings.	6	4

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1 1.	Committee On Implementation. They have managed four.	6	4
12.	Committee On Delegated and County Legislation.	6	4
13.	Liaison. This is the only active committee and we can confirm in this report because they were expected to have six meetings and they achieved. The other committees should learn and benchmark with this committee. We are proud of this.	6	6
14.	Appointments. They met seven times instead of six. This committee is overworking. Mr. Speaker you are the Chair and if not, you are in that committee. I am happy to report that that committee is doing a good work.	6	7
15.	House Business Committee. They managed seventeen meetings. This committee is overworking and we should award it because they are burning their midnight oil to ensure that the businesses of this House are well planned. So, I am proud of it and Mr. Speaker you are leading with example. I had said earlier that other committees should benchmark with Liaison but I have changed my mind. They should benchmark with HBC.	12	17
16.	Committee on Selection. They managed to have eight meetings.	6	8

On number 12, you can see another table, the name of the committee, date of tabling and adoption. You can see the report Mr. Speaker and the Members have got this report.

The Committee that is not doing well should pull up their socks. On number 12 you can see the name of the committee, title of the Report, date of tabling and date of adoption by the House. You can see the Report Mr. Speaker and Members also have the Report.

We also have number 17. There is the Powers and Privileges Committee. This is the poorest Committee in this House. They are supposed to have six meetings but they have met zero times. The Liaison Committee will take action on this. We do not expect a Committee to have zero meetings. We shall not let this to happen here. In this case you are the Chairperson, Mr. Speaker. We have taken note and we shall follow on that.

We also have the Procedure and Rules Committee. They were expected to have six meetings but they have never met. I do not even know if the Members of this Committee even know each other. They even do not have a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson Liaison Committee will deal with this. He should make sure this Committee is active. Mr. Speaker, you are still the Chairperson of this Committee. You are doing so well in some and very bad in others.

Members should go through this Report to know how their respective Committees are doing. Next time when we are coming up with this Report, we expect all the Committees to be active. If the Committees are not active, even the House is not active. The Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons should pull up their socks and ensure that their Committee is working. Every

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Member here is Chairperson or a Vice-Chairperson. The blame is on us all because we are all Leaders.

At number 14 there is that vetting. The Committee received names of Nominated Chief Officers and County Executive Committee Members (CECM) and took the vetting process on 9th December, 2022. They tabled the vetting Report as it is in the Table 2 above and it was adopted by the House as indicated in the same table.

The following Statements were committed to the Finance Committee. You can see there was releasing of specialized vehicles and equipment. That is the Statement received by the Committee. The Members can go through it to know how the response was like.

Number 16 there is a general challenge experienced by the Committee. They experienced the following:

i. Allocation of thirty (30) minutes per committee is not enough for any serious discussion of a committee. This is not a challenge because the Committee can decide to sit for even one hour on their own. Even if it has been noted as a challenge, the Members should take action of working beyond the 30 minutes allocated.

ii. Membership in so many committees lead to lack of quorum. This happens if the Members are many.

iii. Some mandates are not aligned to their corresponding committees and thus a need to be amended in the standing order.

iv. The committees do not have individual oversight budgets.

On recommendations and way forward:

i. Allocate more time to committees for any meaningful discussion;

ii. Each committee to have maximum of 5 members except those otherwise provided for by the Standing Orders;

iii. Liaison Committee to allocate specific budget to individual committees;

iv. The committee on Procedures and Rules should undertake amendment of the Assembly Standing Orders First Schedule; and

That the House adopts this Progress report for the period between October, 2022 — 31st December, 2022.

On page sixteen we have the Committee staffing. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Clerk to the County Assembly is meant to clerk all the Committees in the Assembly. Being the Chief Accounting Officer of the institution, he is backed by a Deputy Clerk and Clerk Assistants who represent him in the committees. The following are their details:-

S/No.	Name of Committee Clerk	Name of the Committee
1.	Jasper Mutuiri	Clerk of the County Assembly
2.	Waweru Gichuki	Deputy Clerk

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3.	Simon Kitur	Budget and Appropriations Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
4.	Regina Githua	Public Investment and Accounts Implementation Committee
5.	Purity Kairu	Labour, Social Welfare and community Services Education, Vocational Training and ICT
6.	Miriam Gichuki	Powers and Privileges
7.	Michael Muriithi	Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives
8.	Nelson Kosgei	Procedures and Rules Appointments
9.	Joanina Ngatia	Finance and County Planning County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters
10.	Edward Githua	Health Services Delegated and County Legislation
11.	Ruth Muhoro	Selection
12.	Caroline Irungu	House Business Committee
13.	Ann Wambui	Transport and Public Works Liaison

That is my end of reading this Statement and Report. I am aware that we as a House and as Committee have done our work. The Liaison Committee is committed to make sure that all the other Committees are active. We shall use the Whip to make sure that all the Committees are working tirelessly. We shall ensure that all the meetings that are supposed to be held are attended. We shall hold all committees into account to ensure they work.

I want to call Hon. Daniel Mugweru to second this Motion. By your permission Mr. Speaker, I will direct the Serjeant At Arms to call him from the boardroom. Members present, I expected Hon. Mugweru to second this Motion. I know he is aware and conversant with this Report. I will forward it to him so that he goes through it. He is a very active Member and has been here before and knows how the Report was supposed to be.

I also want to congratulate the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee. He is young, energetic and very active. We shall follow him. If he tells us to jump, we shall only ask how far he wants us to jump. With that I welcome my friend, Hon. Mugweru to second this Liaison progress Report. Thank you.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to second the adoption of the Report from the Liaison Committee. It is import to check on the period that we are discussing so that some Members may not get lost on the way. The Report is for the period between October 2022 to 31st December 2022. It is a progress Report for two months only.

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Members should not panic because of this Report thinking they have failed. We were so new during the month of September to late December. The Report should not worry us much. We as the liaison Committee need to congratulate all Members for making the Assembly successful for those two months.

This the time Members were going for training, learning proceedings of the House and knowing each other. Most of us had not met before. There were a lot of things taking place. It is a success for the Assembly and the Liaison Committee.

Having said that, I second this Report. I also congratulate all Hon. Members and the Committees Chairpersons for making the business of this House run smoothly. We should all feel appreciated. Thank you all for making it easy. We are in 2023 and the Report is for 2022.

As the Chairperson of Rules and Procedure, Mr. Speaker, you should not feel as if you lost. Probably the second Report will rate you very high. This is also to any other Chairperson. It is important to check where we started. The next Report will be a comparison Report. We shall compare the progress. If you are expected to have six meetings and deliver four, it means they are improving. We shall rate the progress this way.

We have a good name in Laikipia and across the Country. This is because of the unity and coordination of the Liaison Committee. Hon. Members it is our time to appreciate what we have been doing. This is our success. When the Chairperson fails, the Members have failed and if the Chair succeeds, the Members have succeeded. It is a success for all Members.

It is important to see the Challenges we have been having during those two months. It is important that when we identify a challenge, we start working on fixing it. The Liaison Committee bringing this Report to the House is to brag or show their success but to shed light on how we started and how we are doing. As a House we needed to see the challenges we had in the two months. In the next Report, we shall be comparing to know what we can change.

I am sure all the Committees by now have met. The next Report that the Liaison will come up with will probably place our House at a higher level. For a beginning, this was a success. I commend them for that. Having meetings in the first two months was such a success. We had trainings and a lot of things happening in those months. It was the best we could have done.

Hon. Speaker, the most important things to look at are the challenges that we are having and what has been recommended. If we ask ourselves questions and do what we recommended, maybe the House will work better than it has. Hon. Speaker, the Liaison Committee which is led by our Chairperson who is the Deputy Speaker and successfully from that time till now, he has led us as the Chairperson and we as Members appreciate what he has been doing.

Hon. Speaker, during that period the committee experienced a very big challenge as a Chair being told to have a meeting for thirty minutes. There is no serious discussion you can have. You cannot have a meeting for thirty minutes and get a serious discussion. You are expected to settle and have prayers and you know it is not mandatory for you to start with the prayers in the Standing Orders. Some of us like Bishop Hon. Kamara, if he is made the Chair, he will lead us with a gospel prayer that can take one hour.

Hon. Speaker, you know prayers are very important to us and nobody can tell the person who is leading the prayers that he has gone too for. You will close the eyes until he finishes the prayers. So, Hon. Speaker, thirty minutes are little and we have experienced that challenge. We

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need to think of how we can have a one-hour meeting so that we can have a productive discussion and a very serious one.

Even if you divide thirty minutes for a meeting of seven Hon. Members and the Clerk Assistants, it means you can serve for two and half minutes and that is not enough for us. Because we have identified that problem, today we ask ourselves because Liaison is having a meeting, what shall we do to have a one-hour meeting in a day.

Hon. Speaker, the other challenge we have been is membership. The membership of many committees is leading to lack of quorum. It means that one Member is having eight to ten committees. When you have eight committees you cannot serve all of them. At the end of the day, you are only fighting to have eight committees yet at the end of the month, the much you can be paid is sixteen meetings.

You can make sixteen meetings with only four committees. Four committees having four meetings in a month, you have already achieved your sixteen meetings. Having eight and ten committees is a waste of time and energy yet at the end of the day you make us loose quorum. You are supposed to be in the Agriculture Committee, I am expecting you in the Education Committee, you are expected in the Budget Committee and all the chairs are seated somewhere expecting you because you are a member of all these committees.

When three people miss, automatically that committee loses quorum. When it loses quorum, automatically there is no progress in that meeting. The meetings are four and do not forget that it is not six meetings. It is a minimum of six. So, you are expected to do fifty. How can you do six and you are not even meeting the minimum. You are a member of many committees and you have a baggage at your back and you cannot control yourselves.

So, Hon. Speaker, that is a problem that we need to look at. Hon. Members feel that they now have ten and should relinquish three or four. You should not fail others for selfish gain because you are not gaining anything. Hon. Speaker, Members need to sit down. If you feel you have ten committees, I will relinquish three or four committees and be left with the committees that I can manage. Having four committees, you will be able to meet what is expected in this House.

This time we were new and everybody thought that he or she was supposed to be in all committees. Everybody thought that if you are not in the Infrastructure Committee, the roads in your area cannot be built. You thought if you are not in the Agriculture Committee, agriculture works will not be done in your wards. Hon. Speaker, everybody felt that one is supposed to be a Member of all committees.

Now that we have learnt the systems of the Assembly and how committees work, you can feel comfortable saying if I get four committees, I am good to go. We need to work on it. Hon. Speaker, the other thing we have experienced is the issue of some mandates are not aligned to their correspondent committees and that needs to be amended. That is the issue of the Standing Order and Hon. Speaker, because you are the Chairperson for Rules and Procedures Committee, you know very well we are at 95%.

We need to work on the amendments of our Standing Orders. Hon. Speaker, yesterday we had some issues and these are some of the things we need to look at. Yesterday we were discussing about a statement and you could tell if the Standing Order says clearly that you do not need to give people the reports, then we need to change such things. What is the importance because tomorrow I will be asked for a statement myself and that is what I have planned to do. On the statement I will be asked here, I will not get a written thing from the Executive.

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I will make a call and they will give me a conversation and I will stand here to give the same conversation and tell you people because you are young enough and your mind is very clear, to put it in your mind computers and life will continue. Hon. Speaker, we should start thinking about changing our Standing Orders. Mr. Speaker, on that one you know very well that physical planning is supposed to be in the Infrastructure in our Standing Orders. Currently, it is in the Finance Committee.

Those are some of the challenges we are having. You will find today ICT which is supposed to be in the Education Committee is in the Administration. At the end of the day, you will put it in the Cohesion Committee in this House. Our Standing Orders are contradicting us in so many ways. The other thing Hon. Speaker, we have been saying that we need to have a two-day plenary. We should come here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays so that we have more time to have our meetings.

Hon. Speaker, those are the challenges we will be having and because we are at 95%, we are remaining to call Honourable Members and bring them into the Assembly, then we approve it. We will now get our rules in this House and we will be able to move on and be able to have more hours to make meetings. The thirty minutes we are talking about can be two hours if we get an extra day.

So, Hon. Speaker, these are the challenges we are having as Liaison Committee. We carry the burden of the whole House. Hon. Speaker, the other thing is that we have been having challenges though it is a matter of discussion. The committees do not have individual oversight budgets. Hon. Speaker, this is something that has also affected several committees. That is when you find one committee is doing a lot and the other one is left behind.

I do not want to say much about this one but it is a matter of discussion among ourselves as Members asking ourselves whether we need to have individual committees or we have a pool budget. It is very important to discuss this because at the end of the day, when one committee fails, the whole Assembly has failed. When the Budget Committee fails, it means that the whole Assembly fails including the Members who are not in the Budget Committee.

When the Education Committee fails, then the whole Assembly has failed because the Education Committee doesn't live by itself. It is a committee simply to work on behalf of all Members. Hon. Speaker, as I second this, I call upon Members. You as the Speaker of the House, we should sit down and discuss the challenges that we are having one by one and ask ourselves how we are going to tackle them.

Hon. Speaker, I second and call upon Hon. Members to support the report. It is good for us; it is good progress and it is for all of us. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: As I open our debates session, I would like to notify the Members that due to the importance of this report and our need for deeper debate on the same, it is marked that this progress report deliberations will continue for three sittings. Thank you and the floor is open for debate. For the progress of the House as I read the mood, I request Hon. Mwaniki to be on the floor.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this report of the Liaison Committee. We have been experiencing and we do not need a report to see the problems in this House. As we have been moving on, this is very evident we have been having challenges of conducting business in this House and conducting business in our committees because sometimes we do not have quorum in our committees.

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The number of Members per committee has been very evident. So, this would have done better if we could have sat down as a House and discussed this. We would have solved this problem once and for all. Some committees have not met even once which is a big challenge. In the Finance Department, you will see in your reports according to the meetings you have attended, some meetings have not been paid because we needed to sit down as Members and deliberate on these issues much earlier than having a report recommending such issues whereas as Members we should have sat down.

It is upon us as Members of this House, if we want to streamline this House and never experience such challenges, we should sit down as Members and discuss this this then amend whatever that need to be amended. We raised these issues on the days of attendance of the Assembly from 3 to 2 so that we can combine the afternoon session to one and Attend this Assembly two days per week. We will be able to attend other businesses of the Members of the public.

This has taken a lot of time and if at all it was time, we had time but it is a matter of sitting down and making decisions and sticking to the decisions and amending the Standing Orders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Firstly, I will state that my view will be manned by the fact that this morning I feel frustrated Mr. Speaker. I feel very frustrated by going through the report. Mr. Speaker, among all the rights and privileges and freedoms given to man, freedom of thought is very important. I want to state here that to a great extent, I disagree with this report.

Mr. Speaker, we are not visitors in this House. We have seen the work progress of some committees. I have seen the tabulation on this sheet and Mr. Speaker, I can tell you it is very erroneous. It contains errors which is a joke Mr. Speaker. Then I want to state that on the same matter on the progress of these committees, sometimes you wonder who sat on these placements. One Honourable Member has nine committees. I have three committees. It defeats logic as to why I should attend this House at times.

It translates and let us not treat ourselves to things that are not Honourable. I just saw an attendance sheet moving round and it has said that I have missed almost all sessions. It doesn't mean you haven't seen me in this House Mr. Speaker. Let us get serious with Members of this House. If it is attendance, let us be clear. Is there malice in some of the things that we see recorded in this attendance sheet.

If it is issues of these committees, let us have balance. That is why some weeks ago you heard people say in a *kamukuji* that there are a lot of variances when it comes to these Honourable Members, the committees they serve, the allowances they receive and all other things. Mr. Speaker, I feel frustrated with these committees and I cannot lie. If we are doing attendance sheets, let us be factual on the things we are doing.

Going forward, it might not make sense to some of us. Let us be Honourable. Mr. Speaker, we need to sit down as a whole House and understand the mechanisms of working on these committees. Sometimes we are committees that absolutely have no quorum. I wonder how we are supposed to progress. These are the questions that make me very uncomfortable this morning. The Bible tells us that in these moments, we should not speak much. So, I beg to leave it there Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Gitahi for your contributions. By reading the current mood, let us go to the next order. Hon. Members, we will progress with the same debate in the afternoon.

(Motion deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.12 a.m.

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