



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT— (FOURTH SESSION) THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

_____ (No. 012 of 2020) _____

ON MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY IN THE PRECINCTS OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable Members, I wish to draw the attention of the House to concerns that have been raised by the House Leadership and Members with regard to the security and safety of Members in the precincts of Parliament. Standing Orders 99, 100 and 101 are explicit on maintenance of security in the House. The provisions of these Standing Orders are also replicated in the Speaker's Rules.

Honourable Members, the concerns raised include the increased human traffic whereby there has been an alarming number of visitors hanging around the corridors and in the restaurants in Parliament. Indeed, it is a major concern that at times, there have been more visitors in the restaurants than Members.

In addition, it is a common occurrence to find visitors, staff of the Commission and staff of the Members walking in the corridors without displaying their identification badges. Further, it is very alarming that visitors in Parliament are being allowed into the buildings with bags and other luggage. There have also been cases of visitors accessing the galleries without going through security screening. There are also reports of visitors and former Members holding parliaments' vehicle passes.

You will agree with me that the above concerns present major security concerns, and the situation needs to be urgently addressed.

Honourable Members, in view of the above, I wish to reiterate my communication to the House made on October 11, 2017 where I called upon all Members to accord the necessary cooperation and support to the officers who are responsible for enforcement of the rules relating to security in the precincts of Parliament. These officers are also mandated to conduct stringent screening of Members' vehicles before allowing them access into the precincts of Parliament. The officers are instructed to ensure security in the precincts of Parliament without fail.

Honourable Members, the Speaker's rules are categorical on the number of visitors that a Member can bring to any part of the buildings or precincts of Parliament; that number is two visitors per Member at a given time. In view of the limited space in the Parliament Buildings particularly the restaurants which have a total sitting capacity of 340, against a Membership of 418 in the two Houses, there is need therefore to further limit the number of visitors accessing the restaurants.

In view of the foregoing, the following measures should be strictly adhered to henceforth –

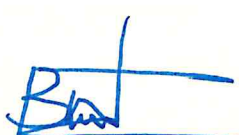
- (i) All persons must go through security screening before entering the precincts of Parliament;
- (ii) Upon going through security screening, all visitors must be given physical passes signed by the Speaker or the Clerk bearing that day's date and thereafter directed to the relevant offices;
- (iii) All passes issued whose permit is to access Parliaments Buildings for a day shall be surrendered to the security at the gates at the time of exiting the buildings;

- (iv) All visitors, staff of the Commission and staff of Members of Parliament should at all times display their identification badges;
- (v) No visitor is to be allowed into the Parliament Buildings with bags or other luggage. All such bags and luggage must be left at the luggage holding area to be set up near the Ministers' gate. The officers responsible for safety and security are hereby directed to put in place administrative measures for the management of left-luggage;
- (vi) Security officers and orderlies should be discouraged from accompanying visitors and witnesses attending Committee sittings as they end up hanging and idling around the corridors of Parliament Buildings in large numbers. They should instead wait at the parking bays or in the vehicles;
- (vii) No person shall be allowed to access the Galleries without going through security screening;
- (viii) Officers responsible for safety and security must ensure that the vetting process for Members and Staff for purposes of issuance of vehicle passes is henceforth enhanced, and such passes ought not be issued to visitors or former Members;
- (ix) There should be adequate manning of the Parliament Buildings and random security patrols carried out in all the buildings, and parking bays including the basement parking;
- (x) No vehicles should be left at the basement parking for unreasonably long periods of time; and
- (xi) Whereas the "*two visitors rule per Member*" for admission into the restaurant remains, going forward, the restaurant in the Main Parliament Buildings will only admit a maximum of 45 visitors at a time. This number represents about fifteen percent of the total sitting capacity of the said restaurant.

Members are therefore encouraged to refrain from having repeat visitors in order to give as many other persons as possible the opportunity to access the restaurant.

Honourable Members, given these new challenges, the Speaker's Rules, 2017 will be reviewed in order to reflect the current modern safety and security standards. In the meantime, as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Service Commission, I will, in the course of the coming week, issue a circular to actualize this Communication with respect to admission and conduct of visitors within the precincts of Parliament. The House is accordingly guided.

I thank you.



THE HON. JUSTIN B. N. MUTURI, E.G.H, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 5th March, 2020