

## THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – (SECOND SESSION) THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

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	(100, 093 01 2023)
	ON
SUSPENSION	OF COMMITTEE SITTINGS DURING THE LONG

## **Honourable Members**,

- 1. As notified in today's Order Paper, at the rise of this Sitting, the House is scheduled to proceed on its long recess from tomorrow, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in accordance with the approved Calendar of the House for the Second Session. This marks the conclusion of regular Sittings of the Second Session of the Thirteenth Parliament and the beginning of a well-deserved break.
- 2. During this session, the House transacted various key businesses including considerations and approval of public finance related motions, consideration and passage of Bills some of them culminating in landmark legislations with far reaching implications in the education, health, housing, labour and social welfare, among others, and effectively turning the economy around. The House also considered Treaties, Sessional Papers, approval of appointments to State Offices, and undertook various enquiries.

The House also undertook its oversight role through Questions to Cabinet Secretaries, which continue to elicit great interest not just in the House but also from the public. A more comprehensive report on the activities of the House will be made available in due course.

- 3. Honourable Members, as an established practice and further recalling the resolution of the House on the Calendar for Regular Sittings on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Committee sittings will stand suspended from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- 4. In this regard, Honourable Members, all Committees are required to suspend their sittings on the stated dates in order to allow Members to attend their constituency duties and parliamentary staff to take their annual leave. Any committee activities that may need to be conducted during the said period ought to obtain express permission from my office, upon written request.
- **5. Honourable Members**, to safeguard business with statutory timelines from lapsing, the counting of days for such business shall cease and resume when the House returns for the Third Session on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024. I hasten to remind Members that should need arise for the House to transact any urgent business, the House will be recalled pursuant to Standing Order 29.
- 6. Honourable Members, I wish to thank the Leadership of the House, Members of this House and staff for the diligence and commitment exhibited which enabled the House to transact business, both in plenary and in Committees throughout the Session.

Specifically, I wish to commend Members for their active participation which has seen the consideration and conclusion of key priority business by the House.

7. In conclusion, **Honourable Members**, as you proceed to spend this well-deserved break with your families and constituents during the long holiday season, I take this early opportunity to wish you all a happy festive season and a prosperous New Year, 2024.

I thank you.

HON. GLADYS J. BOSS, M.G.H, MP <u>DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY</u>

Thursday, 7th December, 2023