

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 27th March, 1996

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion.

THAT, the following Members be appointed as Members of the Sessional Committee:-

The Hon. Prof. G. Saitoti, MP - (Chairman)

The Hon. Dr. Z.T. Onyonka, MP

The Hon. P.J.W. Masinde, MP

The Hon. J.J. Kamotho, MP

The Hon. W. Ndolo Ayah, MP

The Hon. K. Kones, MP

The Hon. W.R. ole Ntimama, MP

The Hon. Kamwithi Munyi, MP

The Hon. A.M. Khalif, MP

The Hon. Boy Juma Boy, MP

The Hon. K.N.K. Biwott, MP

The Hon. G.M. Ndotto, MP

The Hon. M.C. Wamalwa, MP

The Hon. Prof. Rashid Mzee, MP

The Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, MP

The Hon. G.G.W. Nthenge, MP

The Hon. J.M. Shikuku, MP

The Hon. Stephen Ndicho, MP

The Hon. Mwai Kibaki, MP

The Hon. Martha Karua, MP

PROCEDURAL MOTION

EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 33

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that the Business appearing in today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No. 33, being a Wednesday Morning, a day allocated for Private Member's Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Procedural Motion is straight-forward. It states that the Business that would normally be transacted on Wednesday be set aside. Clearly, this House was opened yesterday and there is no Private Motion which has matured. But besides that, the House has yet to appoint the Committee that will be able to set out the Business of the House. So, it is for that reason that I move the Procedural Motion.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Nthenge: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to, first of all, wish a Happy New Year to all the hon. Members. Of course, some of us have not met since we left this House last December.

This Motion is simply a procedural one so that we can get to business and, today being a Wednesday, we should have been in the normal way, deliberating on Private Members' Motions. But our House is yet to be put into order and, therefore, first of all, we should go into the business of putting our House into order so that we can then get down to serious work. So, I am supporting this Motion and at the same time stress that we should be ready to plan what we shall be doing from today as the whole of yesterday was taken up by the official opening of Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Biwott: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Procedural Motion and to urge hon. Members that we support this Motion so that we can move to the next stage of preparing the work for this House. It is quite clear that all the hon.

Members are now fresh, having been on a long holiday and are now ready for real active work which will influence the pace of development in this country.

With these few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

APPOINTMENT OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, the following Members be appointed as Members of the Sessional Committee:-

The Hon. Prof. George Saitoti, MP - Chairman

The Hon. Dr. Z.T. Onyonka, MP

The Hon. P.J.W. Masinde, MP

The Hon. J.J. Kamotho, MP

The Hon. K. Kones, MP

The Hon. W.R. ole Ntimama, MP

The hon. W. Ndolo Ayah, MP

The Hon. Kamwithi Munyi, MP

The Hon. A.M. Khalif, MP

The Hon. Boy Juma Boy, MP

The Hon. K.N.K. Biwott, MP

The Hon. G.M. Ndotto, MP

The Hon. M.C. Wamalwa, MP

The Hon. Prof. Rashid Mzee, MP

The Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, MP

The Hon. G.G.W. Nthenge, MP

The Hon. J.M. Shikuku, MP

The Hon. Stephen Ndicho, MP

The Hon. Mwai Kibaki, MP

The Hon. Martha Karua, MP

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I bring this Motion to this House as is traditional, to recommend to the House to adopt the nomination and, therefore, setting up of the Sessional Committee. In doing so, it is in recognition of the fact that the Sessional Committee, in Parliamentary matters, is indeed what can be termed as the Business Committee. For it is that important Committee that normally meets to work out the business of the House. Therefore, it is essential that this Motion be adopted so that at an appropriate time, the Sessional Committee can be able to meet, to deliberate and to work out the various Business of this House so that we can begin doing what we are expected to do by those who elected us to this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion. First of all, I wish to congratulate the Leader of the Government Business for presenting a balanced list of hon. Members who will be serving in this Committee. It is important that the House approves the Motion so that the Members of this Committee can start with the business of the House by looking at whatever is coming before the House in order that we can carry on with our deliberations as we are supposed to do.

It is important that we set everything in motion because we have been away for quite a long time. We have met our voters and known their problems which should be expressed in this House. We have many national issues to discuss and we should create the right atmosphere so that we can start off straight away by approving the creation of this Committee so that it can start with its duties, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

With those few remarks, I beg to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I think this Sessional Committee is very important because it is bestowed with a lot of responsibilities in as far as transaction of the business of the House is concerned. Although I support the hon. Members who have been appointed to serve in this Committee, I am of the opinion that these hon. Members appear to be the only Members who have been serving this Committee all through. It is time we changed the method of appointing them so that we can give more hon. Members of the House a chance to serve in this Committee in order that they can also have some experience in knowing how the business of the House is organised.

There is no point in giving the responsibilities to the same hon. Members right from the day when they were elected up to the time when the House will wind up its business and then we go for the next general elections.

(Applause)

Some of these hon. Members have served in this Committee for the last 15 years that I have been in this House. I can cite an example of my very good friend, the hon. His Excellency the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development. He can serve as the Leader of Government Business and give another person a chance to serve in this Committee. I also know very many other hon. Members like hon. Shikuku who have served in this Committee for all the days I have been in this House. I have mentioned that so that I do not seem to be against the hon. Prof. Saitoti. Hon. Shikuku is the Secretary-General of the legal FORD(A) and not the faction. That is why I have decided to mention his name so that hon. Members do not misjudge me and think that I am biased. Therefore, I wish to appeal to the House and especially those who serve in the Standing Orders Committee to look into that so that every hon. Member is given a chance to serve, not only in the Sessional Committee, but in other Committees of the Whole House, like the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Public Investments Committee (PIC) and the Speaker's Committee. We would like to see hon. Members exchanging their positions so that they can gain experience.

With those few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also had the same feeling because according to my observation, I have seen the same thing. However, I want to emphasise here that it is mandatory that hon. Prof. George Saitoti be there as the Chairman of the Sessional Committee by virtue of his position as Leader of the Government Business and also as the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development. He must be there. But for the others, it is not mandatory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my main complaint is with regard to Public Accounts Committee (PAC). I have seen that the same hon. Members have always been in that Committee. The only hon. Members who are not supposed to serve in PAC are Ministers and Assistant Ministers. However, the Sessional Committee has always been selecting the same people and that is not right. Hon. Members should be given the opportunity to serve in this Committee so that they can know what happens in the PAC. We do not appoint professionals to serve in the PAC. We appoint Back-benchers. So, other Back-benchers should be given the opportunity to serve in the PAC and other Parliamentary Select Committees.

I, therefore, urge the Sessional Committee to consider the whole country so that other hon. Members can be appointed, instead of appointing the same hon. Members every Session.

With those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I think the last two speakers have blamed the House for no apparent reason. This is because it is---

An hon. Member: What are you saying?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can you protect me from this heckler from Kwale?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is the respective parties that select Members of the Sessional Committee. After the respective parties have done that, they hand over their names either to the Speaker's Office or the Clerk's Office so that they can be brought before the House. I think my colleague, hon. Njenga Mungai might not be quite right to blame this House. The hon. Members that we have here were selected by their own parties. For example, the hon. Members from FORD(A) were selected by FORD(A) after it had sat down. The hon. Members from FORD(K) selected themselves at wherever the FORD(K) had met. I think it is the responsibility of every hon. Member to go and complain to his own respective political parties if he is not elected---

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member not misleading the House that hon. Members of the Sessional Committee are selected by different political parties rather than the House? Is this not misleading the House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: They are nominated by the House.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the procedure we had in our party, that is FORD(A), was that we sat down and agreed---

Mr. Falana: Which FORD(A)?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can you protect me?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we were electing these hon. Members, FORD(A) had no factions at that time. So, it is that original FORD(A) that elected these hon. Members when we sat down. We agreed, from FORD(A), that myself, hon. Nthenge and hon. Shikuku would serve in this Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think most of the hon. Members have forgotten the procedures because of the long vocation but this is the procedure. I think it is upon ourselves to go and sit down and if there is a complaint that we have served for the first term and somebody else wants to serve in this Sessional Committee, then let us go back to our parties and agree on who should serve in this Sessional Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Have you finished, hon. Ndicho?

Mr. Ndicho: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. But there is a point of order from the hon. Member or if you have rejected it I can continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Mr. Farah?

Mr. Farah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a serious misleading of the House in this case. This is a Motion now which is being discussed in this House. It is the responsibility of the House to elect the hon. Members of the Sessional Committee and that is what the House should be debating now. So, the hon. Member is misleading the House in claiming that hon. Members of the Sessional Committee can be elected outside this House. It can be proposed outside this House but the House, debate it and decide what is best and I do not think that they should come back here with more names.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, are we deviating from what we have been doing in the past? Last year when we came here to present the same names there was no "this" objection. It was there, but it was ratified by this House. So, I do not see why there is animosity now.

Mr. Raila: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not intend to interrupt the hon. Member but is he not misleading this House by implying that hon. Members of the Sessional Committee, once they are appointed remain there perpetually because we are appointing the Members of the Sessional Committee for a new Session? The other Session ended last year and this is a new Session and it is, therefore, the duty of this House to appoint the hon. Members of the Sessional Committee for this Session. Is he not misleading the House by implying that the Members serve in perpetually?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am still puzzled and surprised. This is the Fifth Session of the Seventh Parliament and this is 1996, four years since we were elected here. This was the procedure in 1994, 1995 and we are doing the same in 1996. I think everybody is becoming aware of the procedures of the House because when we came here last year, the same people were there and it is only in the FORD(A) where we went and sat down and replaced hon. Ruhii. So, I think---

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member for Juja to continue talking about the practice of the procedure which obviously cannot overrule the Standing Order 145 which clearly provides that there shall be a Select Committee to be designated "the Sessional Committee"

consisting of not less than five and not more than 20 members who shall be nominated by the House to the commencement of every Session?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with all due respect I quite agree with hon. Member for Kikuyu. But my question is: Why are we debating this Motion in 1996 and last year there was no objection? In any case, all what I wanted to say is that it is the practice of this House that selects this Sessional Committee but the practice was that the House cannot come here and nominate so and so. It is the party that brings the names. So, I thank you for that opportunity and I think if we want to have some changes on FORD(A) we will meet and decide. Our Secretary General is coming tomorrow from America and I hope we will sit down and decide on who should be included in this Sessional Committee from FORD(A) KANU, FORD(K) and DP. I quite agree that it is good for many hon. Members as possible to be given an opportunity to serve in different Committees of this House. So, let us go back to our parties and bring in more names.

With those few words, I support this Sessional Committee. Thank you.

Mr. Sankori: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this procedural Motion and I think it is fair that whatever we do outside we do not have to bring it to this House and especially now when we are entering the last Session of this Seventh Parliament. In supporting this Motion, it is my wish that any party that has got a problem should not actually bring it here because we are here as a whole House and not as parties. It was clearly stated yesterday by the Deputy Speaker that we leave our party affiliations outside.

Therefore, I beg to support the appointment of these Members and I urge the hon. Members of this House to adopt the same. Thank you.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion I would like to appeal to these very honourable and competent Members who are being appointed to what perhaps is one of the most important Committee of this House because other than the Public Accounts Committee and Public Investment Committee, the Sessional Committee is one of the most important ones--- I take it that since this Committee consists of majority of hon. Members on the Government side, that majority is not going to be used in partisan manner. In this Session, I express the hope that the Sessional Committee will be able to prioritise matters for debate in this House that are of concern to the Kenyan public in terms of choosing what we should discuss.

There are many matters to be discussed, for example, crisis in our public universities and so on. There are many matters that this House would like to discuss and debate at the earliest opportunity. I am appealing to this Sessional Committee to give adequate priority to those matters that are of most important to this nation and public without using their majority in partisan manner. It is a bit of pity that some of those hon. Members of this House who support a party called SAFINA, of course, it is not registered are not represented on this Committee.

They have not enjoyed any sponsorship from any of

the parties, but we expect that fate in the hope that sooner than later SAFINA would be registered so that it can also play its rightful role in important committees like this one.

With those few words, I beg to support the Motion.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Dr. Misoi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on the appointment of the Sessional Committee. This is a very important Committee in this House and that is why hon. Members' views should be taken into account when appointing Members of the Sessional Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is, indeed, desirable that whenever we appoint a Committee of this kind, we also include new hon. Members. I am not suggesting that we overhaul the whole Committee, but what I am trying to say is that we should try, as much as possible, to include other hon. Members so that they can also participate in the deliberations of the business of the House, not only in the Sessional Committee but also in other Committees. It is not fair to have the same hon. Members for five years running the affairs of this House. What would the other Members be doing?

(Applause)

What I must also point out is that the Chairmen of these Committees and, perhaps, their deputies should continue sitting in their various Committees, but the other hon. Members should be rotating because we also want to contribute and learn how to manage the affairs of this House.

Having said that, I would like to say that this Committee, which we are appointing now should ensure that we have enough business for this House. The business of the House should not be interrupted, because this is a challenge which His Excellency the President gave this House yesterday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to make a very short contribution. It is quite clear from both sides of the House that hon. Members are not happy with this list. Since this Committee is being appointed by the House, I think in all fairness, we should send back the Leader of Government Business to consult with his colleagues, the Whips of the various parties in the House and give us a fresh list.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think when preparing a fresh list the Committee should take into account the comments made by hon. Members like the hon. Dr. Misoi, that new Members of the House, who have never served in this Committee before, should be given a chance to prepare the business of this House because this might be our last Session.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Salat: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

I arise to oppose this Motion because the Sessional Committee is a very important Committee of this House. It is the Committee that draws the programmes of this House. But year in, year out, we see the same faces and names being brought to this House for us to approve. In this list, we have seven Cabinet Ministers, one Assistant Minister and three KANU Back-benchers. I am not concerned about the Opposition Members list but I am concerned about the KANU list.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is saying that there are seven Cabinet Ministers when they are actually eight!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is a point of information.

Mr. Salat: Yes, there are eight Cabinet Ministers. So, what I really mean is that, for hon. Members to get the necessary experience, of what the functions of the Sessional Committee are, it is only fair to rotate hon. Members in every Session.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Government Business, of course, will naturally chair these kind of meetings. Also the Deputy Leader of Government Business and maybe, the Chief Whip should continue serving in this Committee, but the other Members should be rotated in future. Even some Cabinet Ministers who are in this House do not even know the work of the Sessional Committee. Some Cabinet Ministers do not know how the Sessional Committee works and likewise many KANU Back-benchers do not know what transpires in the meetings of the Sessional Committee.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Salat: So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my wish that we request the Leader of Government Business to go back and come up with another list. This does not only apply to this Committee, but also to the other Committees like Public Accounts Committee and the Public Investments Committee because they have the same Members every year. How will the other Members know how these Committees work if they are not rotated? I am not against any hon. Member who is in this list, but it is only good to expose all Members to how these Committees work so that they can get enough experience so that they are able to contribute effectively in this House and know how these Committees work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to oppose.

Mr. Gatabaki: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened to the President's speech yesterday. It was the first time that I had the opportunity of listening to the President. During the previous occasions, I walked out. I noted that the President is concerned about reforms, but, of course, I was dismayed because he did not dwell on constitutional reforms. However, the President seems to be determined to effect reforms. Having said that, let me say that the list of KANU Members does not reflect the spirit expressed by the President in his speech. With exception of one or two hon. Members, the other hon. Members are known as saboteurs of the democratic process.

They will not reflect what the President said in upholding the saying: "For the Welfare of the Society and the Just

Government of Men."

Mr. Sankori: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to call the KANU Members who are in this Committee saboteurs?

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to emphasise that with exception of one or two Members listed here, the others do not represent the democratic spirit of the that the President would wish this House to uphold.

With those few remarks, I beg to oppose very, very strongly the composition of this Committee.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing: (Mr. Maundu): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Motion with only two very short comments. It appears like there is a popular feeling and opinion that this Sessional Committee should from time to time include and inject new blood into it. Comments that have been raised here, from both sides of the House, tend to indicate that some new blood should be injected into this Committee. That is not to oppose this particular Motion. In addition, there seems to be no representation in this Committee for honourable ladies who are in this House. I thought it was necessary to have at least two ladies represented in this particular Committee so that the feelings of our ladies with regard to matters that are in this House are taken into account.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would not want to say that all these Members, as you see them in the House are basically KANU Members but it would appear that from the KANU side there is no women representation in the Sessional Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, with those few remarks I would urge this House to consider including at least one or two new faces in the Sessional Committee.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Murungi: On a Point of Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Mr. Kiraitu Murungi?

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we appear to have exhausted all the important points on this debate. Would I be in order to request that the Mover be now called upon to reply?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! It is most unfair for you to suggest that the Mover be now called upon to reply when you have already had an opportunity to contribute to this debate.

Mr. Mathenge: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, looking at the list of the names of the Members to be appointed to the Sessional Committee, it seems to me that most of these Members have been on this Committee ever since we came here in 1993. They seem to be permanent Members of this Committee. I think it is time Members of this Committee were given a limit of two years during the life of Parliament so that we can have Members serving on this Committee on rotational basis so that all Members can have an insight of how this Committee works. So, I think this list should be looked into and amended.

Another thing I would like to point out is that since we came to this House, there are some Parliamentary Committees which have never sat. No meetings of these Committees have ever been convened. I wonder why those Committees only remain in the Standing Orders while no meetings of those Parliamentary Committees are convened. I need not waste my time on this issue but I have made a point that there should be a limitation of at least two years for a Member to serve on the Sessional Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir.

Mr. Cheserek: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity. I support the sentiments expressed by my fellow colleagues on this Motion. I support the nomination of the Members who have been appointed to serve in this Committee and in view of the fact that the list has been Tabled and given the fact that it is a little bit too late to amend the list, shall I be in order to call upon the mover to reply?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will then put the question for the House to decide.

(Question that the Mover be now called upon to reply put and agreed to)

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, let me first of all thank the hon. Members who have made contributions to this Motion. I thank all the hon. Members for being extremely frank and candid in their contributions. I only want to say one thing that in actual fact what we are doing here today, as a House, is to appoint Members of the Sessional Committee in this new Session. At the same time, I do not know any Standing Order which states that because an hon. Member of this House has served in that Committee before is not eligible to serve again. So the terms of this Motion have not,

in any way, violated the Standing Orders of this House. At the same time let me also say that I am not oblivious to the statements expressed by the hon. Members here but I do believe that those views and statements which have been expressed in this Motion are implicit in what we are going to be considering in some other Committees.

Let me remind the hon. Members that there are some other very important Committees of this House. There is, for example, the Standing Orders Committee. This is a very important Committee and indeed anything that we actually do in this House is guided by the Standing Orders of this House and in my own estimation there can be no other more important Committee than the Standing Orders Committee. It is my belief that some of us may believe that some of the sentiments which have been expressed here, Members of the Standing Order Committee who are going to be appointed, should make it explicitly clear and to ensure that if the House so wishes if a member has sat in a certain Committee of this House, in one Session he will not be eligible to sit in that Committee come another Session. I think we should do that. It is my belief that those who are going to be appointed to the Standing Orders Committee will ensure that Standing Orders are looked into. They should be looked into to make sure that we are in conformity with what is happening with the rest of the world.

Let me also remind this House that there is also another very important and very powerful Committee of this House and that is the Speaker's Committee. That Committee has got fundamental powers and I do not know whether the hon. Members have actually checked on that one there. It does sustain the hon. Members here and it can take away the privileges of an hon. Member. It is those two Committees that are so important which can take care of the sentiments which have been expressed here and I am sure they will be realised in those Committees.

There is of course the Public Accounts Committee which is a very important Committee and I do not believe it is true, as it was stated here, that the same Members are the ones who keep on recurring in that Committee. I have seen changes in both the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Investments Committee.

Let me also say another thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. Any Member of this House who feels that he or she wants to serve in another kind of Committee, please would you indicate your interest by sending your letter to the Clerk of the National Assembly. I am not saying this because it has not been brought to my attention that hon. So-and-so has written to the Clerk of this House stating that he would like to serve in the Sessional Committee. I have not received such a letter.

So, I do want to inform this House that this particular Motion is brought here so that the House can recommend and approve this list so that the House can start work but it does not augur very well for the House to reject a Motion for setting up a Sessional Committee. I think we will be making a very big mistake by doing so unless we want to tell the whole House that we are now ready for business. I also do believe that we all, on the basis of mutual respect for each other, have got full confidence for each and every Member of this House. I therefore want to promise the House that as we go on looking into the nominations for Members of Committees, the statements expressed here by Members will certainly be taken into account.

So with these few remarks, I would like to urge the House to strongly support the Motion.

Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members: Division! Division!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

DIVISION

(Question put and the House divided)

(Question carried by 61 to 25)

AYES: Messrs. Ahmed, Ayah, Badawy, Barmasai, Biwott, Boy, Cheserek, Criticos, Ekidor, Falana, Galgalo, Dr. Godana, Messrs. Kagwima, Kamuren, Keah, Khalif, Kirwa, Kisiero, Kochalle, Komen, Kones, Kosgey, Lengees, Leshore, Ligale, Lotodo F.P.L., Lotodo J.D, Magwagwa, Dr. Manduku, Messrs. Manga, Masinde, Maundu, Dr. Misoi, Messrs. Mohammed H.M., Dr. Momanyi, Messrs. Morogo, Moiben, Mbela D.D., Mcharo, Ndilinge, Mulinge, Mumba, Munyi, Ndotto, Nyamato, Osogo, Oyondi, Otieno, Mwamzandi, Sing'aru, Dr. Wako, Messrs. Rai, Saina, Prof. Saitoti, Messrs. Salat, Sambu, Sankori, Bishop Tanui, Messrs. Titi, Dr. Wameyo, Messrs. Wetangula and Wawire.

Tellers for the Ayes: Messrs. Munyasia and Wawire.

NOES: Messrs. Akumu, Farah, Gatabaki, Gitau, Gitonga, Gichuki, Icharia, Kamuyu, Karengi, Dr. Kituyi, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, Messrs. Muite, Mulusya, Mungai J.N., Munyasia, Murungi, Mutahi, Mutani, Mwavumo, Ndicho, Nthenge, Ojode, Raila, Dr. Odinga and Mr. Wamalwa.

Tellers for the Noes: Messrs. Leshore and Icharia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, before I adjourn the House may I, for information, announce that the Sessional Committee will meet immediately after the rise of the House in Committee Room No. 7.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House now stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.25 a.m.