

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 2nd April, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[*Mr. Speaker in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. 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. George Saitoti, MP -Chairman

The Hon. Philip J.W. Masinde, MP

The Hon. Darius M. Mbela, MP

The Hon. John. K. Koech, MP

The Hon. Joseph J. Kamotho, MP

The Hon. Kirugi M'Mukindia, MP

The Hon. Wilson Ndolo Ayah, MP

The Hon. Kipyator N.K. Biwott, MP

The Hon. Ahmed M. Khalif, MP

The Hon. Boy Juma Boy, MP

The Hon. George M. Ndotto, MP

The Hon. Michael C. Wamalwa, MP

The Hon. Prof. Rashid Mzee, MP

The Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, MP

The Hon. George G.W. Nthenge, MP

The Hon. Joseph M. Shikuku, MP

The Hon. Stephen Ndicho, MP

The Hon. Mwai Kibaki, MP

The Hon. Martha Karua, MP

PROCEDURAL MOTION

EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS FROM PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER NO. 33

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

THAT, this House orders that the Business appearing on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No. 33, being Wednesday morning, a day allocated for Private Members' Motions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, again, I am sure the hon. Members are aware that this being the second day that this House is meeting, we do not as yet have any Private Members' Motion to be deliberated because there has not been a Sessional Committee to look into this one and it is for this reason that the Procedural Motion is being commended to the House.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Nthenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is in order and a procedural way of doing it. So, I support the idea so that we can move as fast as possible to serious business.

I beg to support.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. 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. Philip J.W. Masinde, MP

The Hon. Darius M. Mbela, MP

The Hon. John. K. Koech, MP

The Hon. Joseph J. Kamotho, MP

The Hon. Kirugi M'Mukindia, MP

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The Hon. Kipyator N.K. Biwott, MP

The Hon. Ahmed M. Khalif, MP

The Hon. Boy Juma Boy, MP

The Hon. George M. Ndotto, MP

The Hon. Michael C. Wamalwa, MP

The Hon. Prof. Rashid Mzee, MP

The Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, MP

The Hon. George G.W. Nthenge, MP

The Hon. Joseph M. Shikuku, MP

The Hon. Stephen Ndicho, MP

The Hon. Mwai Kibaki, MP

The Hon. Martha Karua, MP

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again, I would like to draw the attention of the House that, in the very beginning of any Session of Parliament, a Sessional Committee has to be appointed by the House with the mandate of drawing up the business of the House. So, this is an extremely important committee and this is why it has been brought to the Floor, so that the hon. Members can be able to appoint this Committee and allow it to do its work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Committee is appointed, it will then have to get down to business to draw up the business of the House which will first of all come to the House later on in the afternoon. So, this is the proposal and I expect to hear the views of the hon. Members.

I beg to move.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion.

I think it is straight-forward and the names are representative of the whole House. I will, therefore, urge the Members to support the Motion as it is. I would also like to appeal to all the Members whose names appear here, to be seriously committed to the Sessional Committee proceedings, so that we do our best during this Session.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is yet another procedural Motion in a way, because the House has to have a Sessional Committee to determine what comes before the it. There is very little to quibble about this. Although one would like to see the Sessional Committee in future consider the idea of an Opposition day, where serious Opposition business can be discussed all day rather than once in a week during Private Members Motions, which include also Motions from Back-benchers from the Government side. If the Sessional Committee could

consider establishing an Opposition day in future like they have in the House of Commons, I think it would do a lot of justice to the aspirations of the Opposition in this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kiliku: Bw. Spika, ningependa kuwafahamisha kwamba Bunge hili lina uwezo mkubwa kuliko Sessional Committee. Wakati uliopita, tuliona ya kwamba Serikali inaweza kuleta jambo fulani kwa nguvu katika Bunge hili, kwa sababu ina wingi katika Sessional Committee. Ningetaka Kiongozi wa Shuguli za Serikali katika Bunge ajue kwamba yeye ni kiongozi katika Bunge na siyo katika Kamati. Tungetaka tupewe nafasi ya kutosha kama kuna Mswada unaoletwa katika Bunge hili. Ni lazima waheshimiwa wapewe muda wa kutosha ili wachukue Mswada huo wausome. Kama inawezekana, wachukue Miswada siku ya Alhamisi ili waisome mwishoni mwa wiki na wa waulize wananchi vile wanataka ili wapate kuzungumzia kwa njia inayofaa. Miswada isiwekwe katika Order Paper kabla ya waheshimiwa kuiona. Hii ndio sababu wakati mwingine kunakosekana mtu wa kuzungumza kwa sababu hawajui la kusema. Ni lazima tuletewe Miswada na wakati wa kutosha upeanwe.

Nikimalizia, ningetaka kusema ya kwamba ninakubaliana na haya majina kutoka upande wa Opposition. Lakini ningetaka kusema kwamba kama wewe ni Mwanachama wa Sessional Committee, hakuna haja ya kuja kulalamika hapa na wewe ulikuwa huko mambo yakipitishwa. Ikiwa mtu atakuja kulalamika hapa na yeye ni Mwanachama wa Sessional Committee, tutamtoa na kumweka mtu mwingine.

Pia, kama mtu ameingia katika Kamati moja, hakuna haja ya kuingia katika Kamati nyingine. Tuko katika multi-party democracy. Watu wengine wapewe nafasi katika ile Kamati nyingine.

Kwa haya machache, naunga mkono.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a very beautiful carpet here and it is very good for us to be stepping on a good carpet. One also hopes that this public address system has also been changed in the course of the renovations. This appears to be the first invention when the public address system was invented. Perhaps the time has come for these pieces to be put in the museum for the future generations to see how they used to look like, so that we can get a modern public address system.

Obviously, the Sessional Committee is one of the most important Committees of this House, as the Leader of Government Business has said. That is a fact and we want the Sessional Committee to have that importance. We have had occasions in the past when the Sessional Committee has been circumvented by the Government in businesses brought to this House, when the Sessional Committee had not actually authorised it. One expresses the hope that in this Session, that is not going to occur once again. I would also like to appeal to the Government to consider rearranging the composition of the Sessional Committee because they have got the power to do so. They can actually reconstitute this Sessional Committee, even without amending the Standing Orders, so that we can give effect to this august House. In its present composition, it has got 11 Members from the Government side and only eight from the Opposition. This means that what is going to be debated in this National Assembly will be decided exclusively by KANU.

(Hon. Biwott nodded his head in agreement)

I can see the new Minister in the Office of the President nodding his head in agreement. In fact, he is laughing because he knows that the KANU Government will veto what is going to be debated in this House. If we are going to give meaning to the separation of powers, we need to give the National Assembly its own standing and muscle, away from the party which is constituting the Government of the day. As it is now, there is very little distinction between the Government and KANU. In fact, speeches have been made in this House confirming that as far as KANU is concerned, there is no difference between KANU the party and KANU the Government. That is dangerous for this country. Therefore, I would like to appeal to KANU to see the good work that has been done by the PAC and PIC. Could they not show, at the beginning of this Session, a little gesture of goodwill by allowing the Sessional Committee to have at least an equal number, or better still, to give the Opposition the opportunity to decide on the business to be debated in this House by agreeing to have a majority of the Members of the Sessional Committee from the Opposition? Quite often, the Opposition here is powerless when we want to discuss important issues of the day. When KANU uses its majority in the Sessional Committee, we are stopped from giving priority to those issues.

For example, if the Sessional Committee had real goodwill, it would facilitate the discussion of the Constitutional reforms that we want. That is the first business which they should bring to this House and they would agree to come tomorrow and participate in the convention in Limuru because they have been invited. The Chief Whip, the Leader of Government Business and the Secretary General of KANU should come and participate if they want us to debate that very important issue. That is the first business that they would bring into this House as a Sessional Committee. We do not want chaos in this country. Those of us who have been asking for these reforms have been doing so because we do not want chaos in this country. We have spent half of our adult life doing

everything we can to ensure that Kenya does not become another Zaire or another Uganda. So, the composition of this Sessional Committee is very important and I would appeal to the KANU Government to reciprocate the efforts that some of us have been making to ensure that we never get into the Zairean situation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kabila for liberating the people of Zaire who have been living under the yoke of dictatorship. He has done a very good job in liberating that country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of this Motion, I would like to congratulate the previous Sessional Committee for having done a good job. The Sessional Committee of the Kenya National Assembly is, perhaps, one of the best functioning business committees of the House.

It is on this note that I wish the present Members of the Sessional Committee do, in fact, copy the duties and the style of functioning of the previous Sessional Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sessional Committee and a few other committees of this House are, perhaps, the committees that are well constituted because they reflect what we have here in the House.

It is good for hon. Members to know that when a party has the majority in the House, it must be allowed to govern. It must be allowed to have the majority in all the committees of the House. It is not proper for an hon. Member of the Opposition to say that they should be allowed to have majority in the Sessional Committee when they know that they are the Opposition. They are not the Government. I think it is a mistake of concept. I think the hon. Members who say that do not understand anything about how a Government in Parliament should function. A Government in Parliament can only function if it has the majority in all the committees of the House. The Sessional Committee has the best composition. Many of the Opposition Members of Parliament would like to be in the Government, so that they can be the majority in the committees.

An hon. Member: Listen carefully, Mr. Muite!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): That is the reason why they want to be the Government. At present, we are the Government. Therefore, we should be the majority. In fact, I think that the margin of majority does not reflect what is on the Floor now. I think the Opposition should actually be six and the Government majority should be increased in the Sessional Committee.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mrs. Asiyu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion, but I am very disappointed at the gender insensitivity of whoever drew up these names.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 11 Members from KANU on the Sessional Committee. We have three very able women hon. Members of this House from KANU. Surely, could they not appoint two out of these three very able women to serve on the Sessional Committee? I think whoever appointed this Committee should just go back to the drawing board and make sure that he includes at least two women hon. Members from KANU to the Sessional Committee.

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

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is, indeed, a procedural Motion. Therefore, it need not have many arguments. What we should realise is the fact that a Government is composed of party members. The party that is governing is KANU. KANU is carrying out its own policies which it promised the wananchi who elected them to govern on their behalf, and to form the Government.

The fact that you were given so few Members was because the wananchi did not trust you. They knew that you will not be able to govern like the KANU people.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister of State in the Office of the President to make a categorical statement that wananchi did not trust the Opposition, when the statistics are absolutely clear? The total number of votes cast for the people on this side amounted to over 68 per cent of the Members of this House. We ended up with 88 Members of Parliament. They are a minority! They had less votes cast for---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Both of you are entitled to your views. You have an argument and he also has an argument. Let him put across his and you will put yours.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Speaker, Sir, KANU denies the fact that they are the minority. Minority is not the majority. The majority are the ones with the greatest support by those who elected them. This is a fact. If they do not want to say it is a fact, it means that they are not really serious.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is need for a Constitutional debate, we should bring a Motion here. This is because we are elected to discuss it. We are elected here to discuss anything---

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are discussing a specific procedural Motion. Hon. Members have now tended to bring new debate. Is it not proper that we stick to the issue before the House? These other things will come at a later time.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! You are absolutely right, hon. Nthenge. We have before us, not a procedural Motion, but a substantive Motion, to appoint specific Members of this House into the Sessional Committee. The question, therefore, is: Are these hon. Members entitled to sit in the Sessional Committee, or are they not? Would you like to remove one, or several of them and add others, or are you content with the list, as it were?

I am afraid it is hon. Muite who introduced this irrelevancy. I now order that all hon. Members who shall contribute to this issue shall not indulge in any irrelevant issue which is not before the House. Proceed, hon. Biwott.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree with you entirely. I was, indeed, going to speak, but I think I was provoked to this point.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had said something about the Constitution. I will leave it at that. But it is really sad that any hon. Member of this House should be advocating for a revolution, like the one Mr. Kabila is doing against their Constitution---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Biwott! I have already given guidance to the House, that---

Mr. Mutere: What guidance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Mutere! Hon. Mutere, you may find yourself in trouble on the very first day. Order! "Thou shall not interject".

I have already given guidance to the House, which must be obeyed to the very letter on the very first day. We should stick to the Motion before the House. Do we accept or do we not accept the list provided in this Motion, to constitute the Members of the Sessional Committee? That shall be---

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kalweo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Thou shall not have a point of order on, Mr. Speaker. So, that shall be the debate.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will leave what I was going to say about Mr. Kabila, and the remarks made by the hon. Member. I will reserve it for my contribution to the debate on the Presidential Speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do support the proposed list of Members of the Sessional Committee.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I still support the Members whose names are on this list. However, there is this question that we still continue to ask. We did ask it last year, and we are asking it now. The same hon. Members who have been serving in this Committee for the last five years are the same ones whose names we are seeing at a time when we are coming to the end of this Session. This is very unfortunate, because many of us want to get experience in this Committee. I do not see the reason why the same Members should continue appearing in this Committee year after year. If the mistake is made by the leaders of the political parties who forward these names for consideration, this habit should change. They should not be so selfish by continuing to give just a few people a chance to gather experience.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while recommending this Committee to continue operating because we have no alternative, we must remind them that this year is so crucial because we are going to hold General Elections. We are sure that many important Motions are going to be brought to this House, and if the Committee behaves like a KANU Committee, it will try to muzzle some of these Motions. Some of these Motions were brought into this House and they tried to muzzle them. For example, there were Motions on settlements and Party Motions which touched on Constitutional Reforms. When those Motions went before the Committee, they tried to muzzle them to avoid them being discussed in this House. We would like to see many of these Motions on issues affecting the people, such as the the Motions on cattle rustling which are being brought into this House. We want to know whether some of these incidents---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Njenga Mungai! I approve Motions. Are you aware of the existence of any Motion on rustling? So, you are being hypothetical. Can you be factual? Proceed.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that when trying to give priorities to what is going to come into this House, that is the time when they muzzle them. You may have approved them, but they do so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Njenga Mungai! I am talking about your specific mentioning of "a rustling Motion". I have told you that there is nothing like that, and so you are being hypothetical. Can you be realistic?

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just gave that as an example, because it is one of those things that are disturbing us so much. Many of them I have seen, for example, people die. We know of incidents in North-Eastern Province where people are dying. Look at what---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Njenga Mungai, can you come back to the Motion? Bring a Motion on cattle rustling.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was only mentioning cattle rustling as an example. I can also

mention another example. There is a lot of environmental degradation in this country and all these are some of those issues that we want to bring to this House. The environment is being degraded because of votes. People are rewarding others so that they can get their votes in the future. We are going to bring those issues here. Those issues must be given priority because our concern today is to make this nation to be one. We do not want to see our people looking at each other with suspicion. Some of us who come from prone-areas are aware of these tribal suspicions as a result of tribal clashes. We would not like to see such things occurring again this year. We would like to talk in a language of reconciling our people. We would like to see our people accepting that they are Kenyans. We do not have a Kikuyu---

Mr. Speaker: Order! You are now irrelevant.

Mr. J.N. Mungai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I wish to support the Members of this Committee.

Thank you, Sir.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, the House is in agreement with this list. If we are really serious, as Members seem to be, we should give time for the Sessional Committee to go and prepare business of the House. There is one thing I would like to advocate, here; there are so many hon. Members in this House who would also like to be appointed to serve committees, because they are so many.

With those few remarks--- I would like also to say that we should avoid the question of repetition which has been happening; it is even happening today. So, the question of repetition should not be allowed in this House.

Mrs. Asiyu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to propose, for example, that we drop hon. Biwott from this list and in his place, we appoint one of the three ladies, like hon. Mrs. Nyiva or, Mrs. Nyamato.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mrs. Asiyu! I think, you stood on a point of order and obviously you had your chance to speak. I may advise the House on how you implement what Mrs. Asiyu wants, and it is not by a point of order. You have to bring forth an amendment to delete X, Y, Z and substitute with X, Y, Z, and if the House accepts, so be it. If it is refused, so be it.

Mr. Orenge: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion which you have rightly pointed out that it is not a procedural Motion, but a substantive Motion. If you look at Standing Order No.145, there is nothing in that which suggests that the Leader of Government Business should be the Chairman of the Sessional Committee and, I think, the House should, in fact, give the Sessional Committee a free hand to elect a Chairman of that Committee. I would propose that the Leader of Government Business having chaired this Committee for the last six,seven years should be magnanimous enough to show that democracy is taking root in this country and offer his position of the Chairman of this Sessional Committee to one of the senior Members from the Opposition to chair the Sessional Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying so, having heard hon. Sunkuli very well suggesting that because KANU is the majority in the House, they should chair this Committee and any other Committee of the House. Hon. Sunkuli has just come from a very long trip around the globe looking at the way other houses of Parliament operate. I wanted to remind him that when Margaret Thatcher became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the then Speaker of the House was a former Minister in the Labour Government. In fact, he was a Member of the Labour Party. She went out of her way to make sure that, that same person who was the Member of the Opposition continued to be the Speaker of the House. Right now, the Speaker of the House of Commons is the Member of the Labour Party, a Member of the Opposition. So, we are trying to show this Government that if you want to avoid a Zaire situation, you must involve the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Orenge! Mr. Orenge and other hon. Members, will you stick to the terms of the Motion before the House? You will have seven days, to say whatever else you require.

Mr. Orenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just trying to emphasise my point that in this House sometimes when there are matters which come before this House like the question of appointing a Sessional Committee, we should avoid being partisan. The President yesterday pointed out in his speech that we should avoid being sectarian and this is why I am pleading that this year we should show some maturity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, the other point which I wanted to make, which the gracious lady hon. Asiyu has pointed out, is that one of the Members of this Committee should again relinquish his position to a lady from KANU. I am really afraid, following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, that although I know under the law that hon. Saitoti is the heir presumptive but in this Sessional Committee now there is an heir apparent in the name of---

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Biwott): On a point of order Mr. Speaker, Sir. You had ruled that that we should stick to the Motion. Is the hon. Member in order to digress from the specific Motion that has been moved?

(Mr. Orengo stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Orengo, could we please stick to this Motion? There is absolutely no relevance between who gets into the Sessional Committee and what is constituted in the Cabinet. This House has the power, if it so wishes, in fact, to refuse to accept all of the Members indicated there and substitute them totally with a new slip. So, can you address yourself---

(Mr. Orengo stood up in his place)

Order, Mr. Orengo! You see, I fail to understand why hon. Orengo lacks patience. When the Speaker is on his feet you must seat firmly on your seat.

(Loud laughter)

Mr. Orengo: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am now standing firmly after sitting down firmly. Actually, I am talking about this Motion and I am saying that hon. Saitoti should not continue to be the Chairman of this Sessional Committee. There is nothing in the Standing Orders that says that he must be the Chairman of the Sessional Committee. Let us give this Committee a fresh breath; a fresh lease of life. This is because last year we had some Motions which came to the Floor without the Members of the Sessional Committee having fully discussed those Motions and, I think, that would give this Committee a new dimension of thinking. Equally, I think that hon. Biwott, as I said, is the heir apparent and when you have an heir apparent with an heir presumptive sitting in the same Committee, you are going to have a lot of confusion, and a lot of in-fighting.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Dr. Misoi): On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Orengo to continue making irrelevant contributions instead of sticking to the Motion?

Mr. Speaker: Maybe, Mr. Orengo, from what I can discern from your speech, maybe you suffer from what I may loosely call "Biwott phobia". **The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage** (Mr. Mutiso): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In view of this irrelevance and repetition by hon. Members, would I be in order to move that the Mover be now called upon to reply?

(Mr. Orengo stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Orengo! I will accede to the request, that the Mover be called now to reply. Sorry, I beg your pardon. I think we have been away for too long.

(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. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply and I just want to respond to what I thought was a legitimate remark made by hon. Phoebe Asiyo regarding the issue of gender and I just wanted to inform especially Members of the opposite sex that indeed, there is at least one place for a lady hon. Member and, although we have not carried out the calculation to formulate as to whether that representation is in conformity with the actual ratio, I am quite sure that it is not very far it. But let me put it this way. I think this august House has got no reasons whatsoever to downplay the roles of the female Members of Parliament. Everybody who is in this Parliament is a Member of Parliament. Whether it is a man or a lady, I believe such a person is considered an equal Member of this honourable House.

Having said that, there are some other very important Committees of this House whose Members have yet to be appointed. They will come and I want to mention two Committees which we believe are very, very important. One of them, which you do chair, is the Speaker's Committee which is a very important Committee because that is the one that looks at various aspects especially regarding the precincts of the Parliament and it is the one that ensures that the comfort especially the one that we are enjoying here is actually provided to the Members of the House. And we do hope that there will be equal representation to ensure that at another very important Committee and its Members will be appointed in due course. That is the Standing Orders another very important Committee and its Members will least the gender issue is taken into account. There is also another very important Committee and its Members will be appointed in due course. That is the Standing Order Committee. I do not think anybody can underplay the importance

of that Committee more so given the fact there may very well be a need before this House is dissolved to actually look into the Standing Orders which will perhaps become effective in the next Parliament because that is the one that sets out the mode of the conduct of the debates here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so I just wanted to say that you do have this Committee which looks into the business of the House but there are some other very important committees and I would like to assure the Members of this House, on both sides, that attempts will be made, where possible, and we are going to deliberately go out of our own way in the Sessional Committee to ensure that the most transparent method will be used when appointing Members to this important Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these very few remarks, I beg to move.

(Mr. Nassir stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Nassir!

(Question put and agreed to)

Very well. As soon as we adjourn, that Committee which this House has just appointed, will meet in Committee Room No.7 to prepare the business of this House for this afternoon and for the balance of the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, there being no other business to transact, the House stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p m

The House rose at 9.50 a m