



MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

(THIRD ASSEMBLY – SECOND SESSION)

**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BUSINESS
AND RULES**

2ND REPORT ON

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY
ASSEMBLY STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO
REDUCTION OF PLENARY SITTING DAY'S**

1.2 Committee Mandate

The Committee on House Business and Rules derives its mandate from Standing Order 165 (5) and is mandated to;-

- (i) prepare and, if necessary, from time to time adjust the Assembly Calendar with the approval of the Assembly;
- (ii) monitor and oversee the implementation of the Assembly Business and programmes.
- (iii) implement the Standing Orders respecting the scheduling or programming of the business of the Assembly and the functioning of the Committees of the Assembly;
- (iv) determine the order in which the reports of Committees shall be debated in the Assembly;
- (v) may take decisions and issue directives and guidelines to prioritize or postpone any business of the Assembly acting with the concurrence of the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority Party, as the case may be.
- (vi) consider such matters as may from time to time arise in connection with the business of the Assembly and shall have and perform such powers and functions as are conferred on and ascribed to it by these Standing Orders or from time to time by the Assembly.
- (vii) consider and report on all matters relating to these Standing Orders.
- (viii) The House Business and Rules Committee may propose amendments to these Standing Orders and any such amendments shall upon approval by the Assembly, take effect at the time appointed by the Assembly.
- (ix) The House Business and Rules Committee may propose rules for the orderly and effective conduct of committee business and any such rules, shall upon approval by the Assembly, continue in force until amended or repealed by the Assembly.
- (x) Any rules approved under paragraph (5) shall be annexed to the Standing Orders and shall be binding upon Committees to the same extent as these Standing Orders.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The Committees' wish to sincerely thank the Offices of the Honorable Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support and services extended to the Members to enable the Committee complete this report. I am grateful for the Members of the Committee as well, for their diligence and commitment in the completion of this task.

I applaud the secretariat of the committee as well for their competence, professionalism and guidance in the execution of this assignment.

On behalf of the House Business and Rules Committee it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's Report on proposed amendments to the County Assembly Standing Orders.

Thank you.

Signed:  Dated this; ^{6th}Day of June, 2023.

HON. JOHNSON MUKUHA
CHAIRPERSON, HOUSE BUSINESS AND RULES COMMITTEE

2.0 Background

The mandate of the House Business and Rules committee to amend standing orders is derived from standing order 165 which states that the committee shall consider and report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders. Standing order 165 (h) and (244) further states that, the House Business and Rules Committee may at any time propose amendments to the Standing Orders and any such amendments shall upon approval by the Assembly, take effect at the time appointed by the Assembly.

Apart from proposed amendments made by the House Business and Rules Committee at any time, standing orders maybe amended through periodic review by the committee once in every Assembly term. Further to this, proposed amendments maybe initiated by a member with the support of two other members in writing and lodged with the Hon. Speaker. Proposed amendments have been made from time to time to suit and accommodate the dynamic needs and emerging issues related to legislative and committee operations and functions in the County Assembly.

In view of this, and pursuant to Standing Order 244, the third Assembly House Business and Rules Committee initiated proposed amendments to the standing orders to reduce the number of plenary sittings from four (4) to three (3) sittings per week.

2.1 Terms of Reference

The proposed amendments to the standing orders was guided by the following objectives;

1. To reduce the number of plenary sittings from four to three sittings per week.
2. To alter the Calendar of the Assembly in line with the proposed amendments on number of plenary sittings.
3. To highlight the implications of the proposed amendments to the committees sitting schedule.
4. To make recommendations for adoption of the proposed amendments.

3.0 Rationale for the Proposed Amendments

The discourse around reduction of plenary sittings was initiated by the House Business and Rules Committee and extended beyond the committee normal sittings. Notably, the proposal has also been deliberated upon at different forums and caucuses for Hon. Members. It is key to underscore that the proposal for reduction of sittings days was premised on the following justification;

- i. to have sufficient time for field/site visits by committees in execution of their oversight mandates.
- ii. to allow committees more time to engage petitioners owing to the numerous public petitions received in the Assembly.
- iii. to allow members ample time for engagements with their electorate at their various Wards.

4.0 Provisions for Amendments

Specifically, the House Business and Rules Committee seeks to amend the following provisions of the standing orders, in relation to the proposal for reduction of plenary sittings from four (4) to three (3) sittings.

- i. Standing Order 29, relating to ***Regular Sessions of the Assembly.***
- ii. Standing Order 31, relating to ***Special Sittings of the Assembly.***
- iii. Standing Order 32, relating to ***Hours of meeting.***
- iv. Standing Order 46, relating to ***Statements Hour.***

6.0 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY STANDING ORDERS

STANDING ORDER	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDER
<p>Standing Order 29; Regular Sessions of the Assembly</p>	<p>THAT, Standing Order 29 (1) be amended in the first paragraph deleting the word “Thursday” appearing immediately after the word “first ” and substituting thereof with the word “Wednesday” in order to read;</p> <p><i>29(1) Except for the Session commencing immediately after a general election, the regular Sessions of the Assembly shall commence on the second Tuesday of February and terminate on the first Wednesday of December.</i></p>
<p>Standing Order 31; Special Sittings of the Assembly</p>	<p>THAT, Standing Order 31 (4) be amended by deleting the entire standing order and substituting thereof in order to read;</p> <p><i>(4) Whenever the Assembly meets for a special sitting under paragraph (1), the Speaker shall specify the business to be transacted on the day or days at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, but more than one sitting may be held during the same day.</i></p>
<p>Standing Order 32; Hours of Meeting</p>	<p>THAT, Standing Order 32 (1) be amended by deleting the words every Thursday, commencing not later than 3:00 pm. And substituting thereof with the words every Wednesday, commencing not later than 10:00 am.</p> <p>in order to read;</p> <p><i>(1) Unless the Speaker, for the convenience of the Assembly otherwise directs, the Assembly shall sit at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday but more than one sitting may be held during the same day.</i></p>

<p>Standing Order 46; Statement Hour</p>	<p>a) THAT, Standing Order 46 (1) be amended by deleting the word “Thursday commencing not later than 3.00 p.m.” and substituting thereof with the word “Wednesday in order to read;</p>
	<p>46. (1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 42 (<i>Sequence of Proceedings</i>), there shall be time, to be designated Statements Hour, every Wednesday.</p> <p>b) THAT, Standing Order 46 (2) (a) be amended by deleting the word “Thursday” appearing after the word every, and substituting thereof with the word “Wednesday in order to read;</p> <p>(2) During the Statements Hour-</p> <p>(a) a member of the House Business and Rules Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, every Wednesday or on the last sitting day, for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the Table, a statement informing the Assembly of the business coming before the Assembly in the following week;</p>







7.0 Committee Recommendations

Having considered the proposed amendments to the standing orders relating to reduction of plenary sittings from four (4) to three (3) sittings per week, the House Business and Rules Committee hereby **Recommends**;

1. **That**, pursuant to standing order 244 and 245 (5), the Assembly adopts the Committee report on proposed amendments to the standing orders relating to reduction of plenary sittings.
2. **That**, once adopted, the House Business and Rules Committee should review the County Assembly Calendar for the second session pursuant to standing order 30 (2) and (4).
3. **That**, in view of the adopted amendments, the Liaison committee should review the weekly schedules of committee sittings within and outside the precincts of the Assembly pursuant to standing 205 (2) (c).

10. Report Adoption

This report was unanimously adopted by the underlisted members of the committee by way of appending their signatures;

S/N	NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Johnson Mukuha	Chairman/Hon. Speaker	
2.	Hon. Francis Kibe	Leader of the Majority Party	
3.	Hon. Moses Gachui	Deputy Speaker	
4.	Hon. Morris Thuku	Majority Party Whip	
5.	Hon. Caroline Wairimu	Member	
6.	Hon. James Kabera	Member	
7.	Hon. Elizabeth Wambui	Member	
8.	Hon. John Ngugi	Member	
9.	Hon. John Kamau	Member	
10.	Hon. Moses Muchiri	Member	
11.	Hon. Bernard Ruiru	Member	
12.	Hon. Gathe Wa Njeri	Member	
13.	Hon. Laban Chomba	Member	
14.	Hon. Grace Nduta	Member	
15.	Hon. Antony Marubu	Member	
16.	Hon. John Kamwaga	Member	
17.	Hon. Hannah Wairimu	Member	