

**KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
EIGHTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION**

**WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE, FUNCTIONS
AND OPERATIONS OF SELECT COMMITTEES**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

SAFARI PARK HOTEL – AUGUST 10 AND 11, 1999

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In parliamentary democracy, the Committee System assume great importance because Parliament as a body cannot by its very nature, have complete oversight over the Government and the whole gamut of its activities. Modern Legislatures have, therefore, created apart from other devices, committees through which they strive to achieve effective surveillance over the Executive arm of the Government. Committees enable members of the public to participate in the legislative and governance processes by sending memoranda or appearing before committees to air their views on the government and give suggestions on how operations of governing could be improved.

The Kenya National Assembly recognizes the important contribution that committees make to the role and functions of Parliament in the scrutiny of Public Policy and activities. Recent innovation has extended this to Departmental Committees to which most Bills are referred after First Reading. As is the case with all new activities, the National Assembly has encountered a few difficulties and uncertainties in making the committees work effectively, and the need for a Seminar to harmonize the operations of Departmental Committees and other committees was long over due.