

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR ON CONSIDERATION  
OF BILLS WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE OF 27<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST, 2016**

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Honourable Senators, as you are aware, the Senate is in the process of considering various Bills which are subject to the Constitutional deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. These are -

- 1) The Natural Resources (Classes of Transactions subject to Ratification) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 54 of 2015);
- 2) The Forest Conservation and Management Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 49 of 2015);
- 3) The Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 48 of 2015);
- 4) The Health Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 14 of 2015);
- 5) The Energy Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 50 of 2015);
- 6) The Access to Information Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 36 of 2015);
- 7) The Seeds and Plant Varieties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 43 of 2015); and
- 8) The Petroleum (Exploration, Development, and Production) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 44 of 2015)

Two other Bills subject to the said Constitutional deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, that is, the Community Land Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 45 of 2015) and the Land Laws (Amendment) Bill (National

Assembly Bills No. 55 of 2015) were negatived at Second Reading stage in the Senate, and are presently undergoing mediation.

Honourable Senators, as I have previously communicated, it is important that the Senate considers and dispose of these important Bills well before the said deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. This is to allow, in the event not all Senate amendments are agreed to by the National Assembly, for the process of mediation to take place and conclude by the said deadline.

Accordingly, to enable consideration of the Bills yet to be considered at Committee stage, I am directing all Committees responsible for considering any of the said Bills to table their reports thereon **without further delay**.

I also order the Whips to rally Senators to attend sittings of the Senate tomorrow and on Thursday in order to vote on the Bills.

I thank you.

**SEN. EKWEE ETHURO, EGH, EBS, MP**

**SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016**