

Sen. Olekina: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Motion. However, before I get to that, on behalf of the people of Narok County, I would like to send my message of condolences to the Senator of Nyamira County, Sen. Omogeni, for the loss of his mother. I would like to call upon all Members to reach out to the Senator and support him during this hard time.

Secondly, I would like to delve into the issues of this House. I have said this severally and I want to repeat it; that this is, indeed, the House of union. What can set us aside is when we try to become visionaries; we must deal with issues of this country in a bipartisan way. The only way that we are going to be remembered in this country as able men and women who came during trying times and united the country is if we set our differences aside and discuss our issues during these trying times. We should agree that we must defend the independence of the three arms of Government.

When I was growing up, I longed for the time when I would stand and say that I live in a democracy that respects separation of powers. If we turn a blind eye on that, then we will not know what to defend. I came to this House because I believe in the independence of Parliament. I also believed in the independence of the Judiciary and the Executive. These are very trying moments. I have just heard that the Attorney General, Githu Muigai, has resigned and someone else has already been appointed. The Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) also resigned yet they were in constitutional offices that give them time to serve this country well.

During this second Session of the Twelfth Parliament, I would like to call upon all the Members in the Senate Business Committee to approach the business of this House in a bipartisan manner. I might be strong in certain things, but I should be ready to consider what the people who brought us here would like to say. We want a country where you can proudly say that whenever we have a problem, we can sit down and dialogue. That is what democracy is all about.

With that in mind, I want to request you to apply your own discretion under Standing Order No. 120 on all the Bills that come here even if they are Government Bills. You can probably waive the pre-publication period for us to be different from the First Senate that had very few Bills passed and became Acts of Parliament. I would like to request that you consider invoking your powers under Standing Order No. 120 on the Bills that have been already presented instead of taking too much time. That might help us achieve progress in this House.

I would like to support.