

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this Motion and make the following observations. One, I request that this Committee relooks at the Standing Orders, particularly on the composition of Chairpersons of Committees. As a House of union, it is not only the majority party that has a say in this country. It is important for us recognise the fact that we represent the interests of all the people in this country. Therefore, we need to consider issues here in a bipartisan approach.

I understand in the Eleventh Parliament, there was a Committee tasked with looking at various amendments to our Standing Orders. However, I believe it missed an opportunity of ensuring leadership of each Senate Committee was well represented. For example, if a committee is headed by the majority party, then it should be deputized by the minority party. This would have helped us to perform.

I have looked at the leadership of all the committees of the Senate and they leave a lot to be desired. Apart from one committee whose leadership is reserved for the minority party, the rest are headed and deputized by members from the majority party. This in itself is not right. As representatives of the people, it is good for us to share these leadership positions.

I will request that this Committee looks at the Standing Orders clearly and ensures that certain things that are contained in the Standing Orders are there for the benefit of this country.

There are many things we should look at in a bipartisan manner. For example, when a Member proposes a Bill, at times, it is subjected to a committee for pre-publication scrutiny. I do not believe that he should be forced to adopt things that he does not want to include in his Bill.

I have no problem with the membership of this Committee. I know the distinguished Senator for Bomet County, Christopher Lang'at, Sen. Zani and Sen. Beth Mugo. They will be able to take their time to look at the Standing Orders and, at times, deviate from the normal practice of amending the standing Orders at the end of a parliamentary session. If the standing Orders are not working for us, then it is good for us to work on them to ensure that every person benefits from them.

Thank you.