



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)**

CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC PETITION

(No. 005 of 2022)

REGARDING AMENDMENT TO THE UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2012

Honourable Members, Standing Order 225(2) (b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any petition, other than those presented by a Member. Further, Article 119 of the Constitution provides for the right of any person to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including petitioning the House to enact, amend or repeal any legislation.

In this regard, **Honourable Members**, I wish to report to the House that my office has received a petition from Mr. Patrick Kaberia of Identity Card Number 22319488 calling for *“amendment to the Universities Act, 2012 in order to provide for the engagement of Alumni Associations and other stakeholders in resuscitating, rejuvenating and supporting public universities in Kenya.”*

The Petitioner, who introduces himself as the Executive Director of PAWA Africa, a Civil Society Organization specializing in socio-economic development and governance, bemoans what he terms as the sad state of public universities in the country. He highlights poor leadership, mismanagement, deteriorating debt levels, lack of inclusivity, lack of accountability, failure to comply with gender and regional balance, and inadequate public participation as some of the ills facing these institutions of higher learning.

In particular, he views the exclusion of Alumni Associations and other stakeholders in decision-making as a root cause of this ongoing concern, which has led some universities to face near-collapse, auction of university property as well as public ridicule. He is thus convinced that involvement of Alumni Associations would go a long way in addressing the aforementioned challenges as well as in securing support, national pride, prosperity, and global competitiveness of universities through the resultant improvement in quality standards and management.

Consequently, **Honourable Members**, the Petitioner seeks the intervention of this House in amending the Universities Act, 2012 in order to, among other provisions,

- 1) Replace the word '*may*' in Section 42 of the Act with the word '*shall*' in order to compel universities to establish Alumni Associations, and
- 2) Empower University Alumni Associations to nominate representatives to the respective University Council, University Senate, Management Board, Committees, and other organs in addition to managing an Endowment Fund.

Honourable Members, having determined that the matters raised by the Petitioner are well within the authority of this House, I order that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227(1), this petition be committed to the Public Petitions Committee. The Committee is required to consider the petition and report its findings to the House and the Petitioner in accordance with Standing Order 227(2).

Wetang'ula **I thank you!**
THE RT. HON. MOSES WETANG'ULA, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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