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J. S. S. S.
7/12/06



THE STUDY TOUR BY THE WHIPS

TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND BETWEEN

16TH AND 20TH OCTOBER, 2006

The Clerk's Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

December, 2006

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1. PREFACE

Mr. Speaker, the efficient and effective running of parliamentary business depends largely upon Party Whips in the House.

Through the Whips, Business is generated and Members of Parliament are informed of forthcoming business and other related matters. Government Whips are a link between the Government and the House, while Opposition Whips link their Members with Party Leaders. Indeed the Cockar Report of 2002, which made recommendations on the review of the terms and conditions of service for Members of Parliament, received representations from the public to the effect that offices of Parliament, including the offices of the whips, should be accorded special recognition. The Report recommended that since the offices of the whips, among other parliamentary office holders are very important for the management of parliamentary business, there was need to recognize and enhance the allowances paid and adequate facilities such as office accommodation, staff and office equipment provided to their occupants. The allowances paid to the whips were subsequently enhanced with the coming into effect of the National Assembly Remuneration (Amendment) Act, 2003. However, the issue of inadequate staffing and provision of office equipment to Whips' offices are still outstanding.

It is for this reason that the administration of the National Assembly organized a one week study tour for the Whips to the parliaments of the United Kingdom and Ireland between 16th and 20th October, 2006. The main objective of the tour was to study the role of party whips in mobilizing Members of Parliament to support party stand points on public policy debates in the House and the resources at their disposal to ensure this is done.

The two parliaments visited by the Whips have an elaborate whip system coupled with strong party structures.

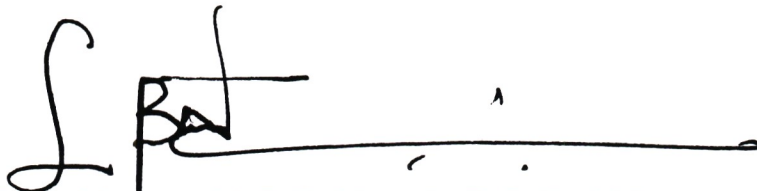
The delegation comprised the following Members and Staff:

- (i) **The Hon. Norman M.G.K. Nyagah, E.G.H., M.P., Government Chief Whip.**
- (ii) **The Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip.**
- (iii) **The Hon. Mutinda Mutiso, M.P., Deputy Government Chief Whip.**
- (iv) **The Hon. Moses Cheboi, M.P., Deputy Opposition Chief Whip.**
- (v) **The Hon. Sylvester Bifwoli Wakoli, Assistant Government Whip.**
- (vi) **The Hon. Gonzi Rai, M.P., FORD-People Whip.**
- (vii) **Mr. Michael Sialai, Senior Clerk Assistant/Secretary to the Delegation.**

This Report gives background information on the origins and growth of parliaments in the two countries visited. It outlines the roles of whips and the facilities put at their disposal to enable them discharge their mandate. The Report also makes recommendations on how the Kenya National Assembly could strengthen the offices of the whips by providing the necessary facilities. The Report further recommends for the creation of a coordinating agency between Parliament and the Executive.

I am therefore, privileged to introduce this Report to the House for consideration and adoption because I strongly believe it is good for this country. It would mark another important milestone in the on-going effort to reform the management of business in this House.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Nyagah', written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Norman M.G.K. Nyagah, E.G.H., M.P.

GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP/LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

1.1 Acknowledgement

The study tour was facilitated and sponsored by AWEPA which kindly met the costs of air tickets, accommodation in the UK and Ireland and out of pocket allowances and incidentals. The delegation would like to thank AWEPA for this gesture and all other logistics put in place to enable the study tour be successful.

The delegation would like also to express its gratitude to both the Irish and British parliaments for accepting to host them and for arranging appointments with several dignitaries despite their busy schedule.

Lastly, the delegation would like to commend the Speaker who initiated the programme under the auspices of the AWEPA/Parliamentary Service Commission Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the capacity of Parliament to discharge its constitutional mandate. Of course, not to be forgotten is the office of the Clerk which facilitates the functions of Committees, and in particular, for having assigned to the delegation a Clerk with sufficient capacity to assist the delegation realize its primary objectives during the tour.

A list of officials met in both parliaments is attached as appendix 2.

2. IRELAND

Ireland attained its independence from the British when the Irish Free State was established in 1922. Ireland is a parliamentary democracy with a National Parliament (*Oireachtas*) comprising the President and two Houses, the House of Representatives (*Dail Eireann*) and the Senate (*Seanad Eireann*). The Parliament derives its functions and powers from the Country's Constitution which was enacted in July, 1937. The two Houses are situated at Leinster House, in the City of Dublin. The Houses of Parliament sit in or near Dublin or in such other place as they may from time to time determine. The sole and exclusive power of making laws for the state is vested in the National Parliament.

2.1 Presidency

Ireland has a President who is directly elected by the people and who holds office for seven years and is eligible for re-election once. Every Irish citizen who has reached thirty-five years of age is eligible for election to the office of President.

Amongst some of the powers and functions of the President are:-

- (i) appointment of the Prime Minister upon nomination by the House of Representatives and other Members of the Government on the nomination by the Prime Minister.

- (ii) summoning and dissolution of the House of Representatives on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- (iii) assenting to the Bills and promulgating every law passed in the two Houses.

In the absence of the President, or his temporary incapacity or permanent incapacity, his powers and functions are exercised and performed by a Commission comprising the Chief Justice, the speakers of the House of Representatives and Senate respectively.

2.2 The National Parliament

The two Houses sit in public and elect from its Members own Chairmen and Deputy Chairman whose remunerations are determined by law.

All questions in each House are determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting other than the Chairmen or Presiding Members. However, the Chairman or the Presiding Member has a casting vote.

2.3 Committees

Each of the Houses of the **Oireachtas** (National Parliament) has power under its standing orders to form Committees for specific purposes.

There are four types of Committees, i.e., Standing Committees, Select Committees, Joint Committees and Special Committees.

Committees take evidence in public and their proceedings are televised. Committee membership reflects proportional strength of parties in the House which set it up. Ministers are *ex-officio* Members of House of Representatives' Committees when they are considering Bills or Estimates for public service.

Some Committees allow appointment of substitute Members and even attendance of Members of the Houses who are not formal Members.

2.4 Speakership

Immediately after a General Election, the first business of the House (*Dail Eireann*) is to elect from its Members, the Speaker (*Ceann Comhairle*) who presides impartially, over the business and proceedings of the House.

The Speaker by tradition precludes himself from active participation in politics but remains free to make representation on behalf of his constituents. The Constitution recognizes this unique role in that it provides for automatic return of the Speaker (without election) if he wishes to be re-elected into the incoming House.

Some of the main functions of the Speaker include calling on Members to speak, putting questions to the Houses as required, supervising divisions and declaring results.

The Speaker is assisted in his duties by the Deputy Speaker and a Panel of temporary Chairpersons.

The remuneration of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of each House is determined by law.

2.5 The Government

The Government of Ireland headed by a Prime Minister (*Taoiseach*) consist of not less than seven and not more than fifteen Members who are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Government is responsible to the *Dail Eireann* and is collectively responsible for the Departments of State.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President upon nomination by the House. Under the Standing Orders of *Dail Eireann*, the Prime Minister decides the order in which Government Business is to be taken daily. In practice, however, the ordering of business generally follows discussions at meetings of Party Whips.

The Government has supported initiatives for new procedures which have resulted in the establishment of a series of legislative and other specialized committees across a broad spectrum of policy and administration. As a result, Members have increased opportunities to participate more actively and effectively in the working of Parliament.

2.6 House of Representatives (Dail Eireann)

Members of *Dail Eireann* are elected every five years from constituencies, each of which elects either three, four or five members (Deputies) depending on the population. Under the Constitution, there must be at least one Member for every 20,000 to 30,000 people. At present, there are 166 Members representing 42 constituencies. The constituencies are reviewed every twelve years.

Deputies represent the entire electorate within their constituencies and are a democratic link between constituents, Government and Parliament. They also serve in Committees as well as local authorities. They hold regular advice clinics throughout their constituencies.

Dail Eireann normally meet in plenary session on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Prime Minister answers questions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only while other members of Government answer questions in turn in accordance with an agreed daily rota. Members are restricted to two oral questions each to each Minister. Five oral questions are prioritized for answer each day and these are allocated between parties on the basis of party strength.

2.7 Remuneration and Facilities to Members

Members are provided by law with a range of entitlements to enable them deal effectively with their duties as public representatives and legislators.

These include salaries and allowances like constituency travel, constituency office, prepaid envelopes, mileage (per mile) and subsistence allowances. They are also provided with secretarial facilities.

3. THE UNITED KINGDOM

Parliament in the UK started to evolve when Kings who owned all the land and therefore had all the power, would summon selected people to a “talk” (parley) to help them govern. In the early medieval times, the King’s advisory council “*Curia Regis*” consisted of bishops, nobles and ministers, who became the forerunners of today’s House of Lords.

With time, however, new classes of people arose who also needed representation. From the 13th Century, Knights and town burgesses were called to join the landowning lords in the Council and from 1341, they began to meet separately, gradually becoming what is known today as the House of Commons. The Parliament settled in the palace of Westminster, one of the main royal residences, in 1512.

Therefore, Parliament consists of the sovereign, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. It is responsible for passing laws and for keeping a check on the Executive.

3.1 House of Commons

There are 646 Members of Parliament each elected by simple majority vote to represent a constituency. The Government is formed by the party which is able to command a majority in the House of Commons.

Currently the party strength is as follows:-

Labour	-	355 MPs
Conservative	-	198 MPs
Liberal Democrats	-	62 MPs
Others	-	31 MPs

The Speaker is elected from among the Members of the House and once elected relinquishes all party political activities and traditionally continues to be elected, both at the constituency and in the House until his/her retirement. He controls debates and chairs the House of Commons Commission. In a normal Session, the House sits in some 35 weeks for about 155 days and sits on Mondays to Fridays.

The bulk of the legislative work of the House is originated by the Government, though legislation can also be introduced by private members with specific days allotted for private Members' Bills. The House has two principal types of Committees, legislative 'standing' and inquiry (select) Committees. The Prime Minister appears in the House once a week to answer questions for 30 minutes.

3.2 House of Lords

Unlike the Members of the House of Commons, the Lords are unelected and unpaid though they may receive certain allowances. There is no upper limit on the total number of Lords and currently there are about 700 Lords, including 26 archbishops and bishops and 92 hereditary peers.

The Lord Chancellor is the Speaker of the House, but has no power to control proceedings as the House regulates itself under the guidance of the Leader of the House.

The House of Lords is increasingly active and effective in acting as a watchdog and scrutinizing Government activities through questions, statements and debates.

4. WHIPS

4.1 The Origin, Status and Position of the Whip

Information available at the House of Commons, U.K., indicates that the word and process of the Whip was in use as early as 1621. The word “whip” is derived from the English hunting expression “whipper-in” which was a title for persons responsible for preventing the hunting hounds from straying from the pack.

The usage of the word whip is still similar in that party whips give their Members information on forthcoming business with each item of business underlined according to its importance and the party stand.

In the United Kingdom, each party has a Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip and several assistant whips in both Houses.

In the House of Commons, the Government Chief Whip is the Parliamentary (ceremonial) Secretary to the Treasury. He is assisted by a Deputy Chief Whip,

a pairing Whip, five Lord Commissioners and seven Assistant Whips who cover standing committees on legislation and regions. In the House of Lords, the Government Chief Whip holds the office of the Captain, Gentlemen-at-arms and is assisted by a Deputy Chief Whip and five assistant Whips who are Lords and Baronesses in waiting to Her Majesty's the Queen. The Official Opposition Party has a Chief Whip and 12 Assistant Whips. The same applies to the National Parliament in Ireland, in that there exist Whips in both Houses and their offices recognized and play a major role in facilitating business in Parliament. Although whips are parliamentary office holders, they essentially hold party political positions.

The Delegation while noting that the Government Chief Whip, Opposition Chief Whip and the Deputy Government Chief Whip are recognized in the House and in the National Assembly Remuneration (Amendment) Act, 2003 proposes that the Standing Orders be amended to create officially posts for the other whips who equally play an important role in the parliamentary work.

4.2 Appointment of Whips and their Status

Both in the U. K., and Ireland, Chief Whips are appointed by Party Leaders (Heads of governments) in consultation with party caucuses. The Chief Whip is a Cabinet Minister who sits in the Cabinet while in Ireland, though the Chief Whip is not a Cabinet Minister, he sits in the Cabinet when parliamentary issues are being deliberated upon. The participation of the Chief Whip in the Cabinet meetings allows him to freely consult his Cabinet colleagues and to inform and present parliamentary issues to the Cabinet. Whips often become Ministers.

In both countries, the Government Whips work closely with Leader of the House and Manager of the House Business. The Leaders of the House are Cabinet Ministers. The Government Chief whip is supposed to assist the Leader of the House in ensuring that the time-table for the Governments legislative programme is realistic and achievable.

In Kenya, however, the Government Chief Whip is not a Cabinet Minister, neither does he participate in Cabinet meetings though his salary and other emoluments are at par with those of the Cabinet Ministers.

A debate has been raging in parliamentary circles in Kenya on whether the Government Whip should be appointed a Cabinet Minister or not. This debate has intensified since the election of NARC Government in 2002. The study tour has provided an insight into this matter, especially because in the UK, the Government Chief Whip is a Cabinet Minister.

Parliaments and Executive Governments all over the world are continuously undergoing modernization to enable them face up to the resultant challenges. Since the re-introduction of multi-party politics in 1992, the Kenyan Parliament has become vibrant and has seen many changes including establishment of the Parliamentary Service Commission which has led to financial and administrative autonomy of the National Assembly, increased committee work and exposure of Members of the National Assembly to new frontiers and levels of awareness.

In the UK, the House of Commons with tacit support of the Labour Government established a Select Committee on modernization of the House of

Commons. This Committee has come up with all manner of recommendations touching on procedures to fast track the business of the House, open it to the public due to public demand that parliament should be more responsive and provide high quality public services. Incidentally, the Labour Party has also been reforming the Executive since 1997 in what is popularly known as “Modernizing Government agenda.”

With evolution of sophisticated procedures and practices and the apparent party inactivity in the House, there is need to have parliamentary business handled efficiently and effectively. This calls for an effective co-ordinating agency between Parliament and the Executive as a whole. That coordinating agency should preferably be in the Office of the President so that it can centrally and effectively play its co-ordinating role in the Government set-up, just like in the UK, where the Office of Government Chief Whip is located next to the Prime Minister’s office to allow regular consultation with the Head of the Government.

The Department which could be called the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and Office of the Chief Whip could have the following functions:

- (i) To foster understanding and mutual trust between the Executive and Parliament as partners in national regeneration and development.
- (ii) To advise the Leader of Government Business in Parliament and other Ministers on procedures and parliamentary tactics with a view to ensuring smooth and expeditious steering of Government Business.

- (iii) To prepare manuals for the handling of parliamentary work in ministries.
- (iv) To co-ordinate action by Ministers on recommendations of general application made by parliamentary committees and assurances and undertakings given by Ministers in the House.
- (v) To facilitate mediation, consensus building and conflict resolution among parliamentary political parties and functions.

From the foregoing, the Delegation observed that there is need to examine institutional structure of the Cabinet with a view to giving the Office of the Government Chief Whip and other Whips status that would lead to effective co-ordination of parliamentary work in order to deliver Government policies and programmes efficiently.

5. ROLE OF WHIPS

5.1 Whipping of MPs

Whips are very influential Members who use negotiation and persuasion in encouraging their colleagues to vote along a certain way in the House. The Whips must establish a proper relationship with the backbenchers in order to contain divergence of views in the House and gauge their views on a number of issues. They ensure that Members are present in the House and that party discipline is maintained.

The Whips in the U.K. and Ireland, set good example in attendance of the House. All the Whips must be in Parliament everyday and must ask for specific permission to be away from duty from the Chief Whips of their parties.

Members of Parliament who absent themselves from the sittings of the House without prior permission or who fail to vote along the party lines are severely reprimanded, suspended or even de-whipped (removed) from the party.

5.2 Link Between Parliament and Ministries

Whips, particularly Government Whips, play a major role in ensuring proper liaison between the House and the Ministries. In the U.K., the Government Chief Whip regularly holds informal meetings with party Members of Parliament and expresses MPs' concerns and worries to the Prime Minister.

The same applies to the other party whips who also convey the views of MPs to their party leaders in the House. In fact, in the U.K., weekly parliamentary meetings are held by Labour Party MPs. In both countries, the Government Chief Whips recommend MPs to positions of parliamentary secretaries and cabinet positions.

The fact that whips are strategically placed to propel a Member to high profile positions, has given them a subtle opportunity to reward "co-operative" MPs in the House and to "punish" non-conformist MPs. The situation is strengthened by the symbiotic relationship that exists between the Whips and Party leadership. Any Member would defy the whips' advice at his/her own political peril. Members who come from safe seats of certain political parties would not

dare be de-whipped as that would amount to being thrown into political oblivion.

5.3 Business of the House

Unlike in the Kenyan Parliament where the Business of the House is considered by the House Business Committee, in the parliaments of UK and Ireland, there are no Committees that deal with matters touching on the business of the House.

In both countries, Governments control the Business of the House, which is generated through the “usual channels”, i.e., consultation among the whips. The recommendation of the Modernization Committee in the UK, to have the House Business Committee established has not been implemented as whips have performed fairly well. The Government Chief Whip does the master plan of legislative programmes and ensures that the programmes are delivered to parliament for debate and eventual conclusion.

In the UK, an elaborate system of information has been put in place to operationalize the Business of the House. The Government Deputy Chief Whip consults the Clerk of the House on the main business of the House and the information obtained is forwarded to the Government Chief Whip who briefs the Cabinet on the expected legislative programmes in the House.

In order to be able to accommodate Opposition Members’ businesses, the Government Chief Whip closely liaises with the Opposition Chief Whip.

Thereafter, all Whips are given “whips benchnotes” containing main business of the House to guide them. In generating the Business of the House, whips are assisted by a well established Secretariat in the office of the Chief Whip.

5.4 Appointment of Members to Committees

Whips play an important role in appointing Members to several Committees in both the UK and Ireland. Their recommendations to have Members sit in various Committees of the House are generally accepted by party caucuses. In effect, they choose Members to sit in these Committees.

In the UK, Whips rarely sit in Committees except in Legislative (Departmental) Committees which consider bills referred to them by the House. However, Whips normally become Members of Administration Committee which carries studies on accommodation, catering facilities and computer services. The Administration Committee ensures services to Members of Parliament and other facilities and make recommendations to the House Commission for provision of such facilities. Whips bring concerns of Members to the Committee and look after the interest of Members.

The Delegation noted that in Kenya, whips recommend appointment of Members to Committees in consultation with Party Leaders and Party caucuses. However, the Delegation observed that an avenue be created for the Whips to bring concerns of the Members to the Administration of Parliament, particularly the Parliamentary Service Commission.

The Delegation recommends that:

- (i) the Speaker's Committee whose function is to consider, advise and report on all matters connected with the welfare of the Members and staff should have its membership reviewed with a view to making membership of the Whips mandatory.
- (ii) that the Speaker's Committee be re-activated to provide Members with an avenue of expressing views on a number of issues through their Whips.

5.5 Travel by Members

Members in the UK and Ireland must get permission from the Whips to be absent from the House. Whips are kept abreast of movement of all Members and are always in constant touch with them locally and abroad. In Ireland, trips outside the country by Members must be approved by the Whips. This has ensured that Business of the House is not disrupted by lack of quorum arising from non-attendance by Members.

The Delegation observed that whips in Kenya are never informed nor are they consulted on Members' trips outside the precincts of Parliament and that this has frustrated their efforts to ensure attendance in the Chamber.

The Delegation urges the Speaker and the Administration of Parliament that whenever Members have to be away on duty, due consultations be undertaken with the whips before approval of such trips are given.

Seeking concurrence of the whips will ensure that proceedings of the House are not disrupted.

The Delegation recommends that Whips be represented in the Liaison Committee so that their inputs and views may be taken into account when the Committee is considering the programme of the Departmental Committees, including their need to travel and sit away from the precincts of the House.

6. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP

The Office of the Government Chief Whip (CWO) in the United Kingdom has a unique status. It is the Private Office of a Cabinet Minister. However, it is also an office that serves 15 other Government Ministers, responsible for providing administrative, advisory and diary support. The Chief Whip Office (CWO) is in many ways a Government Department in its own right; “the smallest department in Whitehall” as it has been called. The office is also split into three clearly definable and distinct areas. The Chief Whip’s Private Office, the Government Whips’ Assistants and the Opposition Whips Assistants. The Principal Private Secretary is Head of the Office and is responsible for 22 members of staff plus two special advisers.

6.1 Chief Whip’s Private Office

Co-located in No.9 Downing Street and the House of Commons, it is primarily responsible to the Government Chief Whip, Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP and by association the fifteen other Government Whips. It is staffed by the Principal

Private Secretary (Senior Civil Service), two Private Secretaries a Business Support Manager and five other officers (see *Appendix I*). The main objectives of the team are:

- ▶ To provide support to the Government Chief whip, to enable her to fulfill her role of timetabling and securing the passage of Bills through the House of Commons and successfully completing the Government's legislative programme.
- ▶ To support the Chief Whip as a Cabinet Minister and with her responsibilities to Parliament.
- ▶ To provide advice and guidance to other Ministers and Departments on the Government's legislative programme and associated parliamentary procedures.
- ▶ To co-ordinate and monitor the proceedings in the House of Commons on a daily basis, in conjunction with the House authorities.
- ▶ To assist the Chief Whip in her role as Patronage Secretary to the Treasury and her duties in support of the Honours system.
- ▶ To provide all necessary support to the government Whips as required.

- ▶ To provide records and analyses' of Divisions in the House of Commons.
- ▶ To assist with the preparation, production and distribution of the Government's weekly "whip".

6.1.3 Opposition Whips' Assistants

Based exclusively in the House of Commons, the four staff provide administrative support to the Opposition Whips. The office is staffed by a Head of Parliamentary Support (one Senior Officer) and two others. Their main objectives are:

- ▶ To assist the Opposition Whips in the execution of their parliamentary duties.
- ▶ To assist the Opposition Pairing Whip with his responsibility of ensuring the availability of Opposition Members of Parliament to provide an effective Opposition to Her Majesty's Government.
- ▶ To provide records and analyses of Divisions in the House of Commons.
- ▶ To assist with preparation, production and distribution of the Opposition's weekly "whip".

There is also the office of the Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords. The office acts as a link between the Government and the Opposition parties on parliamentary issues and co-ordinates parliamentary business in the House.

The office also supports the Lord President of the Council in her role as Leader of the House of Lords and other whips. The office has a complement of 10 staff under the supervision of a Private Secretary to the Leader of the House and the Government Chief Whip.

In Ireland, the Government Chief Whip has a Private Secretary who follows House Business on his behalf and Head of Secretariat. The office of the Chief Whip has an establishment of 15 staff.

The above scenario indicates that for the Office of the Chief Whip to be effective in carrying its mandate, there is need to have a well established Secretariat to attend to it. In the UK, the Principal Private Secretary who also doubles up as Head of the Government Chief Whip's offices is a civil servant and the ruling party, Labour, trusts his facilitation of the legislative programmes. While parliamentary officers provide technical advice to the Government upon request, the primary role of the parliamentary offices is to generally serve all parliamentary functionaries, including the opposition equally and impartially. The Secretariat serving the Office of the Government Chief Whip will focus its loyalty on the Executive as an equal and co-ordinate state organ.

In Kenya the offices of the Government Chief Whip and Opposition Chief whip are inadequately staffed. The Government Chief Whip has a Personal Assistant employed by the State while the Opposition Chief has no staff employed by the State.

The Delegation therefore calls on the Government and the Parliamentary Service Commission to urgently address the need to have a fully-fledged Secretariat, established to serve the offices of the Government Chief Whip and the Opposition Chief Whip.

7. WHIPS' EMOLUMENTS

The Office of the Whips have been accorded special recognition in the two countries and have been remunerated according to the unique nature of responsibilities they hold.

In the UK, Government Chief Whip earns a salary of British Pounds 76,400 per annum which a Cabinet Minister is entitled to while Opposition Chief Whip earns £39,637 p.a. which is equivalent to what a Minister of State and Government Deputy Chief Whip earn.

In Ireland, the Government Chief Whip earns an allowance of Euros 18,140 per annum. Similar amount is paid to a member of the Oireachtas Commission and Ministers of State. Chairpersons of Committees also get similar amount.

Other allowances paid to all Members include constituency travel, constituency office, prepaid envelopes, subsistence and mileage (per mile) allowances. Whips are facilitated to buy mobile phones through direct purchase scheme which

allows members to purchase their own mobile handsets and be reimbursed to a maximum of €750 every eighteen months.

Whips are paid a telephone allowance of €1,269.74 p.a. in addition to €6,348.69 p.a. paid to all Deputies of Dail Eireann.

The Delegation noted that both in the UK and Ireland all whips including their Assistants and recognized party whips are paid extra allowances commensurate with their nature of duties.

The Delegation also noted that even the Cockar Report had recognized the need to award the other Whips Extraneous Duty Allowance for their added responsibility as Assistant Whips.

The Delegation recommends that the National assembly Remuneration (Amendment) Act, 2003 be reviewed with a view to increasing Extraneous Allowance payable to the other recognized whips in recognition of their added responsibility in the House.

8. OFFICE FACILITIES

Whips in both countries are provided with facilities that enable them discharge their duties. In Ireland, Whips like their fellow Members of the House, have offices that have e-mail facility, printer, fax machine, internet access, shredder, telephone and television. The Government Chief Whip in the UK has an office in No. 9 Downing Street, near the Prime Minister's Office and in the House of Commons, near the Chamber where she can monitor the Business from within.

In both countries, all MPs offices including the Whips' offices are fitted with TV monitors to enable them follow the debates in the House and Division bells to call them for a vote. The Division Bell rings for eight minutes to allow Members whose offices are far from the Chamber to access it and vote. In Ireland, Whips are responsible for office allocation to Members and provision of office facilities.

The Delegation noted that facilities provided to Members in both countries have enabled them perform their duties better as they make informed contributions in the House and are kept abreast of all events in and outside the Chamber.

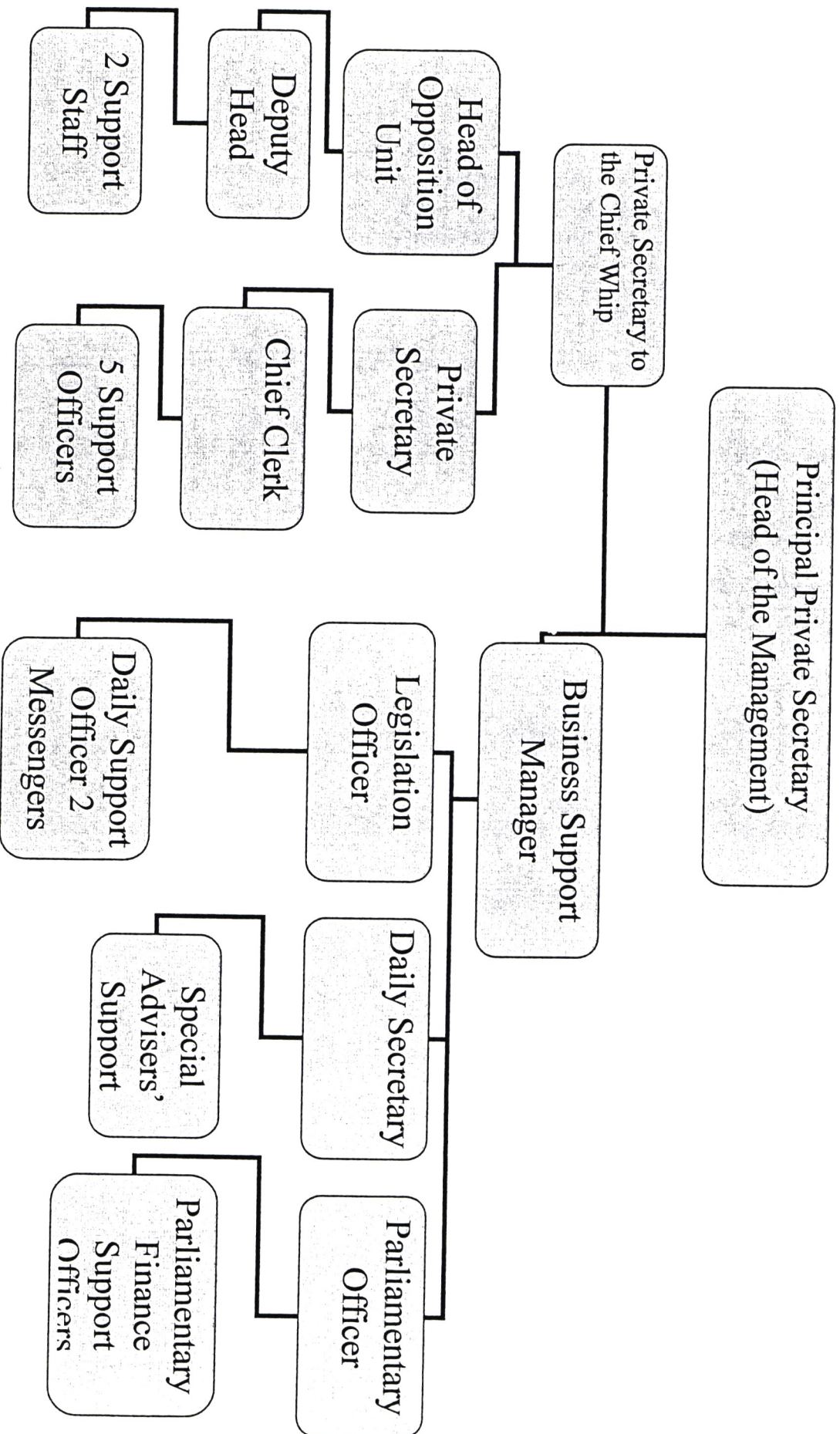
The Delegation observed with concern that lack of connection of Division Bell to the Continental and County Hall offices has greatly hampered their efforts to whip Members to the House during divisions. The situation is worsened by lack of loud speakers connected to the Chamber from Continental House.

The Delegation, while appreciating the efforts by the Commission to provide office facilities, recommends that more facilities be provided to Whips' offices to enable them discharge their mandate effectively.

The Delegation further recommends that immediate action be taken to have Division Bells and the loud speakers connected to both buildings i.e., Continental House and County Hall, in order to facilitate the work of whips and to have Members follow the House proceedings.

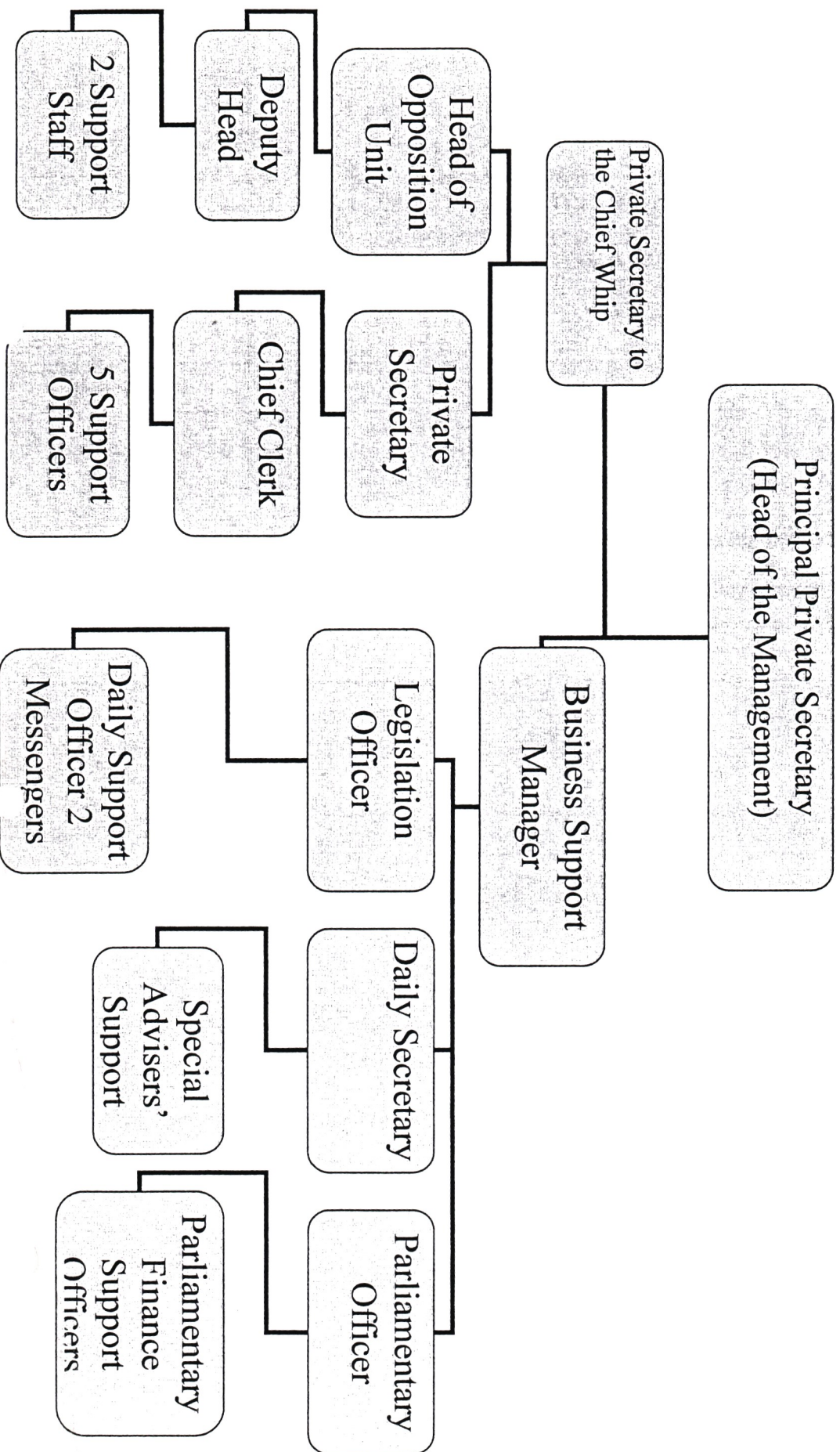
APPENDIX I

Organizational Chart of the Office of the
Government Chief Whip and Opposition Chief Whip in the UK, House of Commons



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Appendix II



OVERSEAS OFFICE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Programme for visit of a delegation of Whips from Kenya Monday 16 October – Tuesday 17 October 2006

Monday 16 October	
9.45 am	Met at Sovereign's Entrance, Palace of Westminster, by Sue Pamphlett, Inward Visits Manager, House of Commons
10.00 – 10.45am	Meet with Mr Joe Omorodion and Ms Meenakshi Dhar, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Headquarters <i>"CPA, Projects and Programmes"</i> 7 Millbank
11.00 - 11.45am	Briefing by Douglas Millar, Clerk Assistant, House of Commons <i>Room U, Portcullis House</i>
12 noon – 12.30 pm	Meet Sian Jones, Clerk of the Committee of Selection, House of Commons <i>Conference Room, Public Bill Office</i>
12.45 pm	Lunch hosted by Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons and Gordon Clarke, Clerk of the Modernisation Committee, House of Commons, Philippa Helme, Clerk of the Defence Committee, House of Commons <i>Strangers' Dining Room, Palace of Westminster</i>
2.15 pm	Observe Speaker's Procession <i>Central Lobby</i>
2.30 pm	Visit to the Gallery of the House of Commons to observe proceedings
3.15 pm – 4.00 pm	Briefing by Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons <i>"The Westminster Parliament"</i> <i>Room U, Portcullis House</i>
4.30 pm	Meeting with Baroness Taylor of Bolton (former Government Chief Whip in the House of Commons, and Cabinet Minister), Baroness Royall of Blaisdon (Government Whip, Government Spokesman for Health, for International Development and for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), and Baroness Crawley, Government Whip and the Government Spokesperson for Defence and for Education and Skills. <i>Committee Room 4, Palace of Westminster</i>
Tuesday 17 October	
9.20 am	Meet Sue Pamphlett at Sovereign's Entrance, Palace of Westminster
9.30 am	Tour of the Palace of Westminster
11.00 am	Meeting with Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP, Government Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, House of Commons <i>Committee Room 21B, Palace of Westminster</i>
11.30 am	Meeting with Roy Stone, Principal Private Secretary to the Government Chief Whip, House of Commons <i>Committee Room 21B, Palace of Westminster</i>

12 noon – 12.30 pm (approx)	Meeting with Steven Mark, Clerk to the Administration Committee, House of Commons <i>Attached Clerks' Room</i>
1.15 pm	Lunch hosted by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch
3.00 pm	Meeting with Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Opposition Chief Whip, House of Commons <i>Room OPW3 (off Members' Lobby)</i>
3.35 pm	Follow-up meeting with Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons <i>Attached Clerks' Room, Overseas Office</i>

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O I F I G T H I T H E A N O I R E A C H T A I S
O F F I C E O F T H E H O U S E S O F T H E O I R E A C H T A S

**Visit by a Parliamentary Delegation
from the
National Assembly of Kenya**

Thursday, 19th October 2006

- 10.00 Tour of Leinster House
- 10.50 Attend sitting of Dáil Éireann
- 11.10 Attend sitting of Seanad Éireann
- 11.30 Coffee and Meeting with Emmet Stagg in Visitor's Bar
- 12.15 Meeting with Mr. Paul Kehoe, Fine Gael Chief Whip and Mr. Dan Neville, T.D., Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House
- 12.45 Lunch hosted by Mr. Paul Kehoe, Fine Gael Chief Whip and Mr. Dan Neville, T.D.
- 14.30 Meeting with Mr. Dan Boyle, Green Party Chief Whip, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House
- 15.30 Meeting with Mr. Tom Kitt, Government Chief Whip, and Liz O'Donnell, Progressive Democrat Chief Whip, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House
- 20.00 Dinner hosted by Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D., Members Restaurant, Leinster House

Friday, 20th October 2006

- TBC Meeting with Ms. Madeleine Dennison, Head of Library and Research Service
- TBC Meeting with Mr. Dick Caffrey, Assistant Clerk of the Dáil