WORKSHOP ON PARLIAMENTARY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

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THE ROLE OF THE PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

INTRODUCTION

The Permanent Parliamentary Committees of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania were established under Article 89 (1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The objective of these Committees is to assist the Parliament to make detailed scrutiny and analysis on issues to be presented in parliament believing that the Committees which are much smaller units can do a better job than the entire parliament.

There are four categories of Parliamentary Committees dealing with specific issues such as:

1. **Non Sectoral Permanent Parliamentary Committee: viz;**
   - Permanent Parliamentary Leadership committee and
   - Permanent Parliamentary Regulations Committee.

2. **Permanent Sectoral Parliamentary Committees: viz;**
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development and Water of which I am the current Chairman,
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure;
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals,
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Social Services such as Education, Health etc.

3. **Permanent Parliamentary Committees on Cross-Cutting issues viz:**
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on National Budget and
   - Permanent Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS and Addictive drugs.

4. **Permanent Parliamentary Committee to oversee use of Public funds viz:**
   - Permanent Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) and
   - Permanent Parliamentary Local Authority Accounts Committee (LAAC).

All together, we have a total of sixteen Permanent Parliamentary Committees.
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMITTEE

As per its Constitutional authority, the committee during the 2011/2014 financial years it has achieved the following:

(i) The Committee has scrutinized the following bills before submitting to Parliament to become acts:-
   - The Tanzania Livestock Research Institute Bill – 2011 (Act – 2011)
   - The cooperative societies Bill – 2013 (Act – 2013)
   - The Plant Breeder’s Bill – 2013 (Act – 2013)

(ii) The Committee did make a case for the increment of the budgets of ministries under its mandate for the 2013/2014 Financial year as follows:

   - Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries from 47,180,225,000/= to 67,180,225,000/= (42.4%)
   - Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives from 328,134,608,000/= to 368,134,608,000/= (12.2%) and
   - Ministry of water from 398,333,474,000/= to 582,833,474,000/= (46.3%)

(iii) The Committee continues to visit various development projects being undertaken by Ministries under its mandate to check on progress being made and whether or not there is value for money being spent.

(iv) For purposes of exchanging ideas and learning from experiences from other counties, the committee during 2013/2014 visited Ethiopia and Singapore. These visits were very educative.

(v) My participation at this workshop is yet another learning platform for my committee and the parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania as a whole.