

The Office of the Speaker

Article 82 (1) of the Constitution establishes the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Article 82 (2) states: “The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker shall be elected by Members of Parliament from among their number.” The Chief Justice or a judge designated by the Chief Justice presides over the election of the Speaker; while the Speaker presides over the election of the Deputy Speaker. As head of the institution of Parliament, the Speaker has administrative and legislative roles.

Roles of the Speaker of Parliament

Legislative roles

1. Chairs the Business Committee of Parliament and the Parliamentary Committee on Appointments;
2. Interprets and enforces Parliament Rules, Procedures and Practices.

Administrative roles

1. The Speaker is the political head of the institution of Parliament;
2. Receives dignitaries and high profile visitors in Parliament;
3. Conducts inter-parliamentary relations;
4. Conducts external high-level communications on behalf of Parliament;
5. Links Parliament with the Executive;
6. Chairs the Parliamentary Commission; and
7. Oversees the functioning of the Parliamentary Service through the Clerk to Parliament