



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Who is Mzalendo Trust?

Mzalendo ('Patriot' in Swahili) Trust is a Kenyan non-partisan Parliamentary Monitoring Organization (PMO) started in 2005 and whose mission is to '*Keep an Eye on the Kenyan Parliament.*' Through information sharing, research and networking, we promote greater public voice and enhance public participation in politics by providing relevant information about the National Assembly and Senate's activities. Our vision is to see informed, empowered and engaged citizens transforming society by holding their leaders to account.

2. What is the Parliamentary Scorecard?

The Parliamentary Scorecard is an annual ranking of performance by the Members of Parliament (MPs)-both the National Assembly and the Senate. First published in 2014, the ranking is strictly based on the performance as captured by the [Hansard](#), of the MPs inside the Parliament and more specifically in the plenary. It does not consider the engagements of MPs outside Parliament.

3. What parameter(s) constitute the ranked performance of the MPs?

The performance is exclusively determined by the number of times individual MPs speak in Parliament (speech counts) and as captured in the Parliamentary Hansard-the official Parliamentary record.

4. How are the speech counts captured?

Upon collation of all the [Hansards](#) for a particular session-usually a calendar year from February to December-the speech counts for each member are generated through an analysis of all Hansard entries over the period under review. An external verification process is also carried out to ensure the accuracy of the information.

5. Does the ranking cover both the plenary and committee proceedings?

No. Thus far the rankings cover only plenary proceedings, whose information is readily available to the public. Information on committees' proceedings is not as readily available. The limited access thus makes it hard to incorporate them into the rankings.

6. Are there MPs exempted from the ranking?

Yes. There are MPs exempted from the ranking. All MPs in positions of parliamentary leadership, who by the virtue of holding such positions have natural privileges, are exempted from the overall ranking. Such privileges are manifested in their responsibilities that inevitably require them to speak as a matter of routine and requirement. Such positions include leaders of both Majority and Minority sides, Chairpersons of Committees, Majority and Minority Whips and Members of the Speaker's panel. Additionally, new MPs who, due to a by-election occasioned by a vacation of seat, joined the Parliament toward the end of the session under consideration are also exempted.

7. Why the Scorecard?

Through the Scorecard, Mzalendo, as a PMO, is able to communicate to the members of the public the effectiveness of their respective MPs on the floor of the House. It constitutes part of the effort towards promoting transparency and accountability. Additionally, it seeks to ensure that members of the public are seized of information necessary in guiding objective decision-making during electoral processes.