

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



SECOND ASSEMBLY

THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
(FOURTH SESSION)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

No. 11 of 2020

DIRECTIONS BY THE CHAIR ON ENGAGEMENT WITH NMS AND CONDUCT OF ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Hon. Members,

I have the following communication to convey:-

i.) Engagement with the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS)

Hon. Members, you will recall that on **Tuesday, 2nd June 2020**, I indicated to this Assembly that there would be a paradigm shift in the manner of how we engage the County Executive following the creation of NMS particularly on exercising our oversight mandate. I particularly informed the house that I would be issuing directions on how this engagement shall be structured. Indeed, **Hon. Members,** in the Executive Order issued by **H.E. the President**, NMS has been placed under the Executive Office of the President which therefore means that implementation of the transferred functions shall directly be under **H.E the President**. This confirms the roadmap issued by the President on 29th February, 2020 at State House that he would ensure that he leaves a lasting legacy in Nairobi.

Hon. Members, while it is now clear that NMS is now under the Executive Office of the President, we must not lose sight on our role. In this regard **Hon. Members,** I am in a process of organizing a meeting with all relevant stakeholders and develop a structure of engagement between the County Assembly and NMS. Once adopted, I shall communicate to this House the said structure. I promise to fast track this process. In the meantime, since am aware that there are several issues affecting our Wards, I direct that all official requests

to NMS be channeled through my office including issues being raised in Committees. However, **Hon. Members**, nothing stops you from engaging the Director General of NMS directly on any other matters of concern to the Wards that require his urgent action. You will realize that in the short period NMS has been in existence, several development projects such recarpeting of our roads and drilling of over fifty (50) as boreholes has been done. In that regard, I direct that the clusters that were formed in Kisumu during a retreat for elected Members be re-activated for coordinated engagement with NMS where your Ward issues can be raised including your priorities. My office shall be ready to assist on this front.

In the meantime, **Hon. Members**, since the National Assembly has been requested to appropriate funds meant for NMS, I direct that the Select Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations fast-tracks the budgeting process for the remaining functions as we wait for a way forward on this matter.

ii.) Changes in Majority Party Leadership

Hon. Members, you will also recall that during our sitting of **2nd June, 2020**, I indicated to you that I had received a letter from the Secretary General of Jubilee Party on the Party's intention to change its leadership. However, following the issues that Members and the Chair raised during that sitting, I have today written to the Jubilee Party why I took the decision of not effecting the changes including all that transpired during that sitting. As such, my decision still stands as we await directions from the Party.

iii.) Broadcasting of Assembly Proceedings

Hon. Members, Standing Order 235 of our Standing Orders allow for broadcasting of our proceedings subject to the Rules set out in the First Schedule to the Standing Orders. In particular, Rule 6 of the First Schedule provides as follows and I quote in part:-

6. External media

(2) No external media house or other person may broadcast any proceedings of the Assembly except as received from the broadcast feed provided by the County Assembly Broadcasting Unit or with the permission of the Speaker.

(3) A media house that receives a broadcast feed from the County Assembly Broadcasting Unit shall broadcast it without any manipulation or distortion.

(4) No camera or other recording or broadcasting equipment shall be allowed in the Assembly without authorization.

Hon. Members, my attention has been drawn to the deliberate breach of these rules particularly by some Honourable Members of this House. The essence of these rules is to protect the dignity of the House since we might not have control of what is channeled out there. I must emphasize that it is not meant to gag anybody. Indeed, live broadcasting has its known challenges including raising emotions out there or even threatening the Privileges that this house enjoys. Going forward, the Chair shall take stern action against any person who breaches these Standing Orders. I must at this juncture, **Hon. Members**, single out **Hon. Kennedy Obuya, the Member for Imara Daima** for streaming live on Facebook the proceedings of this house of **2nd June, 2020** without obviously adhering to the provisions of this Standing Order. The powers and Privileges Committee should investigate this matter.

Hon. Members as I conclude, I still reiterate my earlier statement that I will not entertain a divided house and in the spirit of the handshake, our issues shall be addressed in a bi-partisan manner for the benefit of Nairobian. I urge Members since we all promised the President that we shall give him full support for him to realize his dream for Nairobi, let us do so through the business we transact on the floor. Lastly, **Hon. Members**, even if you may dislike me or the manner in which I preside over the house, I request that you respect my office as echoed by H.E. the President

You are so guided!

I thank you Honorable Members.

The Hon. Beatrice Elachi, CBS
SPEAKER OF THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY
Tuesday, 4th June, 2020

