

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



SECOND ASSEMBLY

THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
(FOURTH SESSION)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

No. 11 of 2020

WELCOMING FROM THE LONG RECESS

Hon. Members,

As you are all aware, today, we are resuming from the long recess. Accordingly, **Honorable Members**, I take this opportunity to welcome you all back from the long recess. I trust you all had a wonderful and fruitful break. It is unfortunate that this was happening at the backdrop of a ravaging Covid-19 pandemic. However, I am great full to the Almighty God for keeping all of us safe even as we continue to uphold the Ministry of Health Guidelines.

Hon. Members,

As we resume our sittings today, our in tray is already full. As you all know we are at the middle of the budget making process and we have documents that we need to approve as soon as possible. They include; *the Annual Development Plan, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), and eventually the Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/21*. You also realize that with the advent of the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS), there will be a paradigm shift on how we shall be engaging both the County Executive and the NMS, including on this matter of the Budget. I shall be issuing further directions on how our engagement shall be structured.

Hon. Members,

Without appearing to pre-empt debate, in today's sitting, we shall be considering the **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) of 2020**. You will recall that the process of considering this Bill was witnessed by disagreements over

constitutional and legal issues that I do not wish to delve into at the moment. However, **Hon. Members**, I must confess that since the operations of the County Government cannot stall due to procedural disagreements, I have allowed the County Executive Committee Member for Finance to re-introduce another Bill which we are set to consider bearing in mind that the Select Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations had already interrogated the supplementary estimates and tabled its report. In fact, the current Bill has been published by the Chair of the said Committee.

Hon. Members,

I wish to reiterate my earlier statement I made at the beginning of this year that during the year, 2020, which is a complete number, I will not entertain a divided house and in the spirit of the hand-shake, our issues shall be addressed in a bi-partisan manner for the benefit of Nairobians. I will also endeavor to protect all Members from both internal and external threats since that is my duty.

Hon. Members,

Due to the Corona Virus and in a bid to conform to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, there are several changes that have been put in place in order to safeguard Members and staff from the virus. Some of the guidelines I communicated to you yesterday in my Memo which was delivered electronically while some shall be domesticated in our Standing Orders moving forward. Accordingly, **Hon. Members**, for purposes of clarity, the following are some of the measures put in place include the following:-

- i) All afternoon sittings shall end not later than **4.00 pm**. Further, Assembly Precincts shall strictly be accessible by Members as from **1.00 pm** except for morning sessions.
- ii) Only forty two (42) seats have been reserved in the chamber and shall be accessible on a first register, first occupy basis save for the designated seats (i.e. for the Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader/Whip and Minority Leader/Whip);
- iii) Members who will not have an opportunity to access the chamber shall follow proceedings from the holding i.e. the Members Lounge (which has

live feed). The lounge shall accommodate only 18 members. The rest of Members will show up at entranced their attendance shall be taken by the Sergeant-at-arms. This is an interim measure as we explore the use of virtual sittings going forward;

- iv) Once seated in the Chamber, Members shall not change seats or draw closer to other Members, the Speaker or Clerks at the Table for whatever reason. There shall be no consultations at the Speakers' Chair or at the Clerks Table, unless in extreme circumstances. Accordingly, it shall be out of Order for a Member to approach the Speaker's Chair or the Clerk's at the Table;
- v) Members are encouraged to access documents digitally from the Assembly Website. The Clerk shall also circulate documents to Members in the Chamber via digital gadgets;
- vi) Members shall while entering, while within and when leaving the Chamber, observe the social distancing requirements, put on face masks and sanitize frequently;
- vii) No visitors shall be allowed in the Assembly precincts;
- viii) The Sergeant-at-arms shall take attendance register for all Members in the precincts of the Assembly; and
- ix) The restaurant shall remain closed until further notice.

Similarly, **Hon. Members**, since there will be need to clean and fumigate the Chamber after sittings, we shall be meeting twice a week i.e. **Tuesdays** (morning and afternoon) and **Thursdays** (afternoon).

Hon. Members, as I conclude, my office has just received a letter from the Secretary General of the Jubilee Party, the Hon. Raphael Tuju, conveying an intention by the Party to change its leadership in the County Assembly. However, due to the gravity of the issues raised therein, my office is still reviewing the letter and I will issue a comprehensive communication regarding the admissibility of the said letter before the rise of this House.

With that, I wish you a good time as you expedite your work to the best of your ability. God bless you.

I thank you Honorable Members.

The Hon. Beatrice Elachi, CBS
SPEAKER OF THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY
Tuesday, 2nd June, 2020