



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Fifth Session

Tuesday 12th October 2021

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

[Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Ms June Ndegwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have the quorum.

(Clerk-at-the-Table confirmed there was no quorum)

We are lacking quorum, Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly ring the bell for ten minutes. Whips, text your members to join us online.

(Quorum bell was rang for ten minutes)

Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

RENAMING OF MBAGATHI WAY TO RAILA ODINGA WAY

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Madam Speaker, it is my humble pleasure to present this motion this morning, I read as per the Order Paper.

THAT, aware that the country has a history of conferring honors and recognition on its most outstanding citizens for their service, acts or deeds which promote public good; noting that this tradition has historically been done by both the National Government and the then county or municipal councils, which now are county governments; cognizant that these honors and recognition has extended to not just medals and titles, but the renaming of roads and other public facilities after our heroes and heroines and other valiant Kenyans; observing that the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, EGH, has for the entire period of his adult life greatly impacted in the development of the Kenyan State, both democratically and economically, and has

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during this period been involved in fighting for greater democratic space, good governance, rule of law and development of infrastructure against many odds, including detention without trial for ten years ; noting that in 2005, as the Minister for Roads and Public Works, Raila Odinga conceived, planned and implemented masterpiece infrastructure which has since proved to be the most durable road ever constructed in Kenya; grateful that his recent actions of shaking hands with both the former President, His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, EGH, and His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, EGH, led to restoration of peace and harmony in Kenya; recognizing that in recognition of these decades of service, the African Union (AU) recently appointed him as the African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development; now therefore, this Assembly resolves that the Nairobi City County Government rename Mbagathi Way in Kibra Constituency, Nairobi City County to Raila Odinga Way, in recognition of Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga's contribution in the development and growth of the Kenyan State including his selfless sacrifice in championing for good governance, democratic space and development of infrastructure for the period of his entire adult life.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to move this motion. As we gear towards general elections, it is important to remind ourselves the history of this great man. The man I am talking about was born on 7th January 1945 in Maseno and is the son of the first founding Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. He is a trained Engineer by profession in Germany and has a master's degree in engineering.

Madam Speaker, I want to remind Nairobians and Kenyans at large that it was never easy as a young man of 26 years to fight for the entire country while your father was the Vice President. It was easy for you to sit on a comfort zone because you could live in Muthaiga and you could also drive the best cars or even have the most beautiful girlfriend. But this honorable man decided at the young age that Kenyan needed the best. He has always taught and reminded us that we need the third and the final liberation for Kenyans.

His rallying call, Madam Speaker, has always been infrastructure. The clamour to rename Mbagathi Way to Raila Odinga Way did not begin yesterday, but in the year 2005 when somebody by the name Awili wrote an article in the Standard Newspaper. The MP for Kirinyaga rose before parliament and requested if there was a possibility of renaming Mbagathi Way to Raila Odinga Way.

Looking at this road, if Raila Odinga had not being appointed as the Minister for Public Works in 2003-2008, you can imagine the congestion that Nairobi could be having today. I remember those days we were young and people said that he was destroying peoples' properties to create a super highway, but he kept saying that the backbone of our economy must always be infrastructure.

In politics, this honorable man and great man of our soil has run a political system that no other man in the history of Africa has ever run. For instance, in 1992, he formed the Forum for Restoration of Democracy (FORD). In 1994, he formed FORD Kenya. in 2002, he joined Kenya African National Union (KANU). I am saying this to remind us that we are not renaming this road to any person but to a person who has sacrificed a lot for the good of this country. In the year 2005, he formed the RAINBOW Alliance. I was a young by then when the late President Arap Moi was handing over power to Emilio Mwai Kibaki. I attended my first rally at Uhuru Park when Raila Amolo Odinga said; "Imetanda, I have seen the signs of a rainbow, liberation for this country". No one else could see that, all of us were seeing that Uhuru Park was full and we were late for

speeches. The rainbow appeared in the skies and he said; "I have seen the rainbow; I have seen the signs of liberation".

Madam Speaker, to date, the Hon. Raila Odinga leads the most formidable party in the East and Central Africa, the Orange Democratic Party (ODM), which I am the Minority Whip in this House. Going down to history, this man has been a presidential candidate and not for himself. In 2007, he ran for presidency. In 2002, he decided to give Mwai Kibaki a chance for the good of the country. Let not rename this road just because it is Raila Odinga, but because he has sacrifice almost 50 years of his life for the good of our country.

I am happy that you initiated this process of naming roads to great men and women. I am also expecting a road to be named after Martha Karua in this City. I expect one day, Juju, a girl from Kirinyaga, who has been nominated a Member of Speaker's Panel, can be embodied in this House as history dictates so. I also expect that the only Teso man to be elected twice in the capital city and now the Whip of the Minority Party, one day to be embodied in this City Hall when I am still alive. Madam Speaker, it is a fallacy that when I am long gone that is when you cerebrate my life.

I am told that the Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister is meeting a group of young men. This is the history that we need to remind these young men. Now, he is running for the presidency for the last time, as he puts it. This man has fought for our country. He is the only man who dared to dream. When he was challenged that you need to resign as a member of parliament, he resigned and formed his own party. He went back to Lang'ata Constituency, vied and won the elections.

Madam Speaker, as young as you are, remind yourself when last did you hear a member of parliament in this country, or an MCA resigning? I think the door of resignation of elected leader in this country was opened and closed by the Rt Hon Raila Amolo Odinga. Why was he doing this? For the good of the country. All these show that democracy can be seen to be practiced by all of us, including leaders who are elected. Today, I hear some saying, "I want to be a member of Jubilee Party". "I used to be a member of ODM Party." Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga did an honorable thing by resigning and went back to the people, formed his party and came to Parliament with it. This is what we learn as young people. We are not just giving this road just to a person, but a man who has sacrificed a lot. I know this motion has elicited many questions.

My mother, Hon. Ariviza has prepared for the last one week to second the motion, then my sister will come in. Thank you.

Hon. Mary Mwami: Thank you, Madam Speaker and my Deputy Whip. I stand here to second this great motion of a great man, an African statesman recognized world over by everyone that has met him. Somebody visited Botswana this week and he found that he is in the hall of fame of the country. So, I stand here to talk about a great man, a man that I have honoured throughout my whole life. There is no rally Baba Raila Amolo Odinga has had in Uhuru Park that I did not attend. I am a Nairobiian and I have lived in this City all my life. He is the only man that calls for a rally in Uhuru Park and doesn't need to ferry people from the estates. Whenever he called for a rally, we came to Uhuru park. Most of the time I have seen people who have called for rallies in Uhuru Park but the park is empty.

I support that Mbagathi Road be named after him. I have taught at Mbagathi Primary School, so, let me give you a little history of what Mbagathi means. It is a spoilt way of Kikuyu Language meaning, 'a person that works like a slave.' At one time when I was teaching at Mbagathi Primary School, we thought of changing

that name, which means a slave, *mfanyikazi*. But we realized it was impossible for us to change because it would mean changing many things in that area, like Mbagathi Primary School, Mbagathi Secondary School, Mbagathi Hospital and many others. We have a time for us to rename this great name so that it changes the history of that area. That it is no longer Mbagathi but a name of a statesman who is an inspiration to many people of this country.

So, I stand here to state categorically that it is a worthwhile motion and not doing for the sake of it. He is a man who has stood for this country. I remember in 1982, I was in Nairobi when there was an attempted coup. He was thrown into prison for no apparent reason because he had no connection with the coup attempters. He was detained at Nyayo Chambers without trial. This Nyayo House that we see here has got an underground chamber that has been a home for torture.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Mheshimiwa Ariviza, I don't think you can substantiate those claims, unless they are in history books.

Hon. Mary Mwami: Yes, they are in history books and there are people have written it in their biographies. Madam Speaker, I will bring you one of those books.

The thing is, this is a great man that stood for the purposes of God. I want to challenge the young men and women who are now on social media, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and others. They tell Hon. Raila, "Mzee, go home." They don't know what they are talking about. The reason for you being on social media and challenging the status quo at this time is because there was this man and others like Anyona, who stood for the democratic space for this country. If there was no Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, you would not be hurling abuses to the President of Kenya until he had to leave Twitter. It would never have happened. It is because of this man.

I am talking about an African statesman. Why did African Union decide to choose him to be in charge of infrastructure? It is because he has proven himself. For us to take a small bit of Nairobi, a road by the name Mbagathi, it is to show him a little--- he even deserves bigger honor for what he has done for this country. African Union has recognized him and he travels all over Africa. We are hoping that there will be a lot of initiation of dams that can be able to produce electricity to feed the whole Africa with electricity and even be able to export.

I am looking forward to him leading. Even the world recognizes him. I know there are many things that have happened in this country, and the world knows that it was his great heart that led this country to be what it is. If he was with some people who are vindictive and keep crutches, he would not have even shaken hands with our Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, which we are so grateful. I support this motion that Mbagathi Way be renamed Raila Odinga Way. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the debate is open. Hon. Doris Kanario,

Hon. Doris Kanario: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am honoured before this House this morning to support this great motion---

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Temporary deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, kindly consult in low tones. Continue, Hon. Doris.

I am honoured before this House this morning to support this great motion of a great man in the Republic of Kenya. This man, as we all know, is the father of devolution in this Country. It was during his tenure as the prime minister of this country that we realized the support in youth and women fund which they have continued to enjoy up to this date.

Hon. Speaker, he is the father of handshake. When they came together with the President of this Country, we have realized great development in this Country, which we have continued to enjoy. I feel honoured. I am sure even the other Kenyans that also realized peace and a lot of developments have taken place in this country, which we have continued to enjoy. I feel honoured. I am sure Kenyans have realized peace and a lot of developments has taken place in this country. This man has sacrificed a lot for this country. He has put the interest of this country before his interest. I think we are late in honouring him. This road should have been named as soon as yesterday.

Last week, I saw one of the parliamentarians who was in one of the African Countries, and he stood in front of a portrait which was in honour of this great man. We are late in doing this as an Assembly. So, I urge everyone here to support this great motion of renaming the Mbagathi Road after this great man, Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga who has sacrificed a lot for this country. Madam Speaker, I know if you were on this other side of this House today, you would join us in backing us on the same. So, as women in this Assembly, we also support the same. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Doris. IT, kindly fix the sound. There are so many requests online but they cannot hear t properly. Hon. Clarence

Hon. Clarence Munga: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I rise to support today's motion with very few points. The contribution that the Rt. Hon. Amolo Odinga has done to this country is of great importance, not only to this generation but also to the generations to come. Talk about the champion of good governance, everybody looks at Raila Amolo Odinga. Talk about some who talks about improving the infrastructure of this country, everybody looks at him. This is someone who has a vision for this country when it comes to infrastructure. Talk about the Northern Corridor, the Southern Bypass, the LAPPSET Corridor and connecting Africa. Being honoured currently as an Ambassador of infrastructure in Africa, speaks volumes of this great man.

Renaming Mbagathi Road, Raila Amolo Odinga Way his an honour. This road does not have any potholes. This is a technology that he borrowed from another country and he said that it must be implemented in this country. Since 2005 up to now, that road has had no pothole. That speaks volumes of this great man.

I rise to support this motion and say that Mbagathi Road be named after Raila Amollo Odinga. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Clarence. Mheshimiwa Rose Ogonda.

Hon. Rose Ogonda: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for sitting there as the Speaker of today. I am humbled before you. It is a long time since I was in this House but, I have rushed here because of this Motion. I am supporting this motion fully that Mbagathi road is named Raila Amolo Odinga Way. I have reasons to support this motion.

First, without Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga, multiparty system would have not been in Kenya. That is why you can see each and everybody can go and register any party.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, without Baba, we would have not known what devolution is, but now in Kenya, the devolution is in our ward level. We are now doing developments because of Baba Raila Amolo Odinga.

Thirdly, and I want every elected leader to hear this, Baba has shown us that we must forgive one another. As Governor Mandago said, you put politics in lungs. Now, every Kenya can see what Baba has passed through and now he has *azimio la umoja, inawezekana*. We want to live in this County as one Kenya one Nation because of Raila Amolo Odinga. Madam Speaker, initially women had no voice in Kenya. *(Applause)* Now, we are elected because of Raila Amolo Odinga because he fought for women in leadership. Women have been nominated as special elect to represent women at the grassroots because of devolution. That is the spirit of Raila Amolo Odinga.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I do not want to say much, but without Raila Amolo Odinga, this Country cannot be in peace as the way we are leaving today. I stand here as a product of Raila Amolo Odinga. From a fishmonger to an MCA at Nairobi City County. I support this fully that *Baba's* name be put up and we be present on the day the billboard is going to be launched in respect of him. I stand to support, thank you very much. I salute to my Whip for bringing this motion at the right time. May God bless you all

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Rose Kula. Hon. Jared Akama.

Hon. Jared Akama: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this great motion and congratulate our Whip for this timely and godly motion.

Madam Speaker, I cannot stand to purport to list everything about Engineer Amolo Odinga, but by naming Mbagathi Road after him, we will be honoring devolution, democracy and individuals who believe in this country and love it. We are honoring a great man, peace and a person who believes that this country can be great. I know that if I start listing the things he has done for this country, then the list will be endless. Thank you, and I support

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Akama

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: I will now put the question---- No. Wait, I need the mover to first reply. Sorry about that.

Hon. Peter Imwatok: It is okay, Madam Speaker. Allow me to say thank you to the honorable members who are in attendance and on Zoom to discuss this important motion on those who have fought for us and to remind us who Jakom, Baba, Telo, Joshua, Agwambo, Sibuur, Nyundo, Tinga is.

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Are those his official names?

Hon. Peter Imwatok: Madam Speaker, he is a man with very many names and they all have a significance. They have important seasons and occasions that signify their meanings. May I remind you that Mbagathi Way is a 2km road. If I had a change of making a 15km road named after him, then I would, but this is the best that we can do for the much that he has done for us.

Hon. Speaker, I am reminded of this quote on a daily basis saying, *you cannot forget the past, but you can forgive it*. The stone throwing and houses burning is no longer the face of Kenya. Kenya is now a destination for investment and tourism, and I pray that as we pass this motion, the Chair of Implementation, Hon. Mberia and Her Excellency the Governor, can work on this with speed. Keep in mind that he is the longest serving Member of Parliament within Nairobi. This is going to be a very special occasion. Mbagathi Way is the road that joins T-mall, Mbagathi Hospital, Kenya Defence Forces, Langata Constituency, Nyayo Highrise, Kibra, schools along Jonathan Gloag and Riara University. I urge the honorable members to support this motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to reply.

(Applause)

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: Thank you, mover.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Deputy Speaker: There being no other business, the Assembly stands adjourned to today 2:30p.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 10.26 a.m.