



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
SECOND ASSEMBLY - FIRST SESSION
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

—ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, Standing Order No.14 (1) states:

“Immediately after taking and subscribing to the Oath or Affirmation of Office under Standing Order 13 (*Swearing-in of the Speaker*), the Speaker shall notify the Members of the place, date and time of the opening of County Assembly.”

Further, Standing Order 14(2) provides that following the notification by the Speaker under paragraph (1), the sitting of the County Assembly shall stand adjourned until the date and time of the opening of County Assembly.”

Separately, **Hon. Members**, Standing 22 provides thus,

“The Governor shall address the opening of each newly elected County Assembly.”

Hon. Members, in this regard, I wish to notify you that I shall communicate the place, date and time of the opening of the County Assembly in due course.

Hon. Members, before we adjourn, allow me to invite you for high tea and other hospitality services organized by the Assembly in celebration of the occasion of this First sitting at Charter Hall, just adjacent to this Chamber.

Hon. Members, the Assembly will now stand adjourned and will resume on a date to be communicated after consultations with the leadership of the Assembly and the Governor on official opening of the County Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 22.

I thank you.

Speech by Honourable Beatrice Elachi

On Election as Speaker of Nairobi County Assembly

6th September, 2017

Honourable Members, Senator of Nairobi Hon. Johnstone Sakaja, Mr. Clerk, Good Morning.

I take this opportunity to thank Almighty God for giving me another chance to serve the people of Nairobi County. I am humbled and I want to thank you all for the Honor you have bestowed on me as the second speaker of the County Assembly of this City. In 2010 Kenya adopted a New Constitution. One of the key hallmarks of that Constitution is the adoption of a devolved system of Government. Devolution is at the center of transformation of the country. Article 174 of the Constitution itemizes the functions of devolution. The functions revolve around ensuring equity in the distribution of national resources, enhancing a sense of belonging for all Kenyans and promoting democratic and accountable exercise of power.

Honourable Members, each of the forty-seven counties are distinct. They have to design their paths for realizing the promise of devolution. In doing so, there exists both a county Government and a County Assembly. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of delivering for the people of Nairobi as members of this August House. To do so, we have to be true to

our oath of office, the promises you all made to the electorate during campaigns and the Constitutional stipulations.

The role of every legislative assembly is to legislate, oversight and represent. We will be expected to deliver on each of these areas. As a House, we have to remember that citizens will judge us not by how much we disagree, not by how much we procrastinate, not by how many meetings we attend, not just by the wards we represent, but by how much we make their lives better. It is, consequently incumbent on us to set our targets in each of our legislative roles and get down to business. As we debate in this house, let us not lose sight of the fact that we exercise delegated authority. The power bestowed upon us by the citizens of this great County is one we should use fully and for their benefit.

Honourable members, Nairobi is not just one of the forty-seven counties. It is also the capital City of our motherland Kenya. The Assembly is also the largest in the whole of the Country, it is second to Parliament. As members, I urge all of you to appreciate two implications of being the Capital City. First, we are host to the seat of National Government. We thus have to give true meaning to the Constitutional stipulations that counties are distinct but interdependent. We are required to promote a culture of consultation and cooperation with the National Government and National Institutions. Being a

legislative assembly, while we are distinct there is a lot we can gain from greater linkages with the Senate as the legislative arm that is designed to protect and guard devolution at the national level.

Honourable members having been a Senator, I know that the relationship between county assemblies and the Senate can be improved. We both are designed to serve the same interest which is to ensure that devolution delivers on its promise. We are neither subordinate to nor in competition with the Senate. I hope members will join me in cultivating a respectful and deeper relationship with the Senate so that Nairobi can become a model of legislative light guiding devolution and ensuring progress for the residents of the County.

As speaker, my role is to guide debate and ensure that the dignity of the House is maintained. I will be Speaker for all Members. The Majority Party and the Minority Party have constitutional responsibilities and recognition. The House requires each of you to play your role for it to deliver on its mandate. I urge you to promote a spirit of give and take and compromise so that we have as much as is possible delivered in a bipartisan manner as possible. There is no law that once enacted only benefits those who voted for the Majority Party of

the Minority Party. Every legislation affects the residents of this County. There is no budget that is only for a specific section of this city. I urge all of us to never lose sight of this greater good.

Politics is competitive. The House is a place for bringing those opposing ideas to the table. As part of that process, there will necessarily be disagreements. That is the nature of multi-party democracy. Competing ideas does not mean enmity. Neither does it mean demeaning each other.

Honourable members, the term Honourable means we have to bring honour both to this house and to our positions as leaders. As speaker, I urge all honorable members to carry themselves with decorum and conduct their affairs in accordance with the Standing orders, the Constitution and the laws of this land.

As your speaker, I promise to serve all of you fairly and faithfully so that we can collectively make this Second Assembly memorable in the journey of transforming this great County and City.

Thank You