

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



**NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY
(SECOND SESSION)**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
7th December 2023**

ADJOURNMENT FOR LONG RECESS

Hon. Members,

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon sitting of the Assembly. I have the following Communication to convey

Performance of the Assembly

Hon. Members, without appearing to pre-empt the Motion to be moved by the Leader of Majority Party for adjournment of the Assembly, it is important to note that this is a special kind of Sitting because it marks the end of the 2nd Session in accordance with the Assembly Calendar that was approved by this Assembly.

Hon. Members, accordingly, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Assembly leadership to express my sincere gratitude to all the Assembly Members for your dedication and commitment to the legislative work. Indeed this is the time to take stock and introspect as an Assembly whether we have been able to achieve our objectives.

Hon. Members, the First Session was very brief and full of activities including induction of Committees and the entire Assembly; and familiarization with how Parliaments work. It was a brief learning Session. However, the actual learning on

how to execute Assembly Business has taken place this Second Session and I want commend all Members because you quickly settled for duty

Hon. Members, as an Assembly we are guided by a five year Strategic Plan in which our objectives and aspirations are captured. Indeed, the rate of our performance will be best measured when the output is put side by side with the strategic objectives captured in the said Plan. This is reflected both in Committees and the Plenary. Accordingly, may I commend a good number Committees for having exercised their oversight and representation roles fairly well. It is uncontested that Committees are the backbone of the Assembly and they feed business to the Plenary. In this regard, the Plenary has been able to consider reports from Committees on Petitions, Bills, Statements, site inspection visits and budgetary documents. But the question as to whether that meets the expectations lingers.

Hon. Members, I am aware that the Select Committee on Liaison will soon or later be considering annual reports from all Committees with respect to their respective mandates. At this point, I believe, we shall be able to measure our performance in Committee in actual terms. However, I can confirm that there are pending business before Committees ranging from responses to Statements to reports on Bills which have recently been read the first time to reports on other aspects. I want to urge Chairpersons to have the business concluded within the provisions and guidelines in the Standing Orders and presented for consideration by the Plenary next Session.

Legislative function

Hon. Members, I want now to address the Assembly on Bills. The Assessment of the Assembly's performance with respect to legislation is not appealing. Throughout the entire Sessions one and two, the Assembly has not passed any substantive Bill apart from budget related legislations. At the commencement of this Session, I conveyed a Communication on how Committees will dispense with Bills that either lapsed or had gone through Second Reading. In the Communication, I gave concessions and

exemptions in order to have continuity of processing and re-introduction of Bills. However, the delivery has taken longer. Only until two weeks ago that a remarkable eight (8) Bills have been published and five (5) Bills have been committed to Sectoral Committees for public participation. In this regard, I direct that the Bills be prioritized by Committees upon resumption of Committee Sittings in accordance with Standing Order 141.

Select Committee on Powers and Privileges

Hon. Members you recall that the Leader of Majority raised pertinent issues affecting effective discharge of the mandate of the Select Committee on Powers and Privileges. This is a statutory Committee that ensures order in the Assembly and adherence to ethics and integrity by Members. Accordingly, on the material day, I ordered the Committee be suspended in view of its reconstitution. Further, I directed both Whips to forward names of Members to form the new Membership of the said Committee. Hon. Members the process has delayed but I can report that the leadership held a consultative meeting on the issue and the Committee will be reconstituted this afternoon as you can see in the Order Paper.

Ad Hoc Committee on County Revenue

Hon. Members, the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate and report on issues around revenue administration and system (s). This was occasioned by the Motion by the Leader of Majority in which the Assembly observed lack of accountability and transparency in revenue collection in the County. I am happy to report that the Committee has held its orientation workshop and is fairing very well. Accordingly, it has effectively commenced its work pursuant to its terms of reference and I am aware that this morning, the Committee met key stakeholders on matters County Revenue and it is my belief that under the leadership of the Leader of Majority and the commitment of the Membership, the Committee will deliver. I want to wish the Committee well even as it continues with its meetings.

Challenges in the course of the Second Session

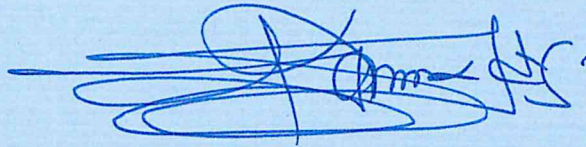
Hon. Members, in the course of the Session, we have not been short of challenges that have affected our performance as an Assembly. Firstly, you can recall as much as I do, the challenge of cash flow that caused delayed payment of Members' allowances which you can all agree that as leadership, we went out of our way and had it addressed. Secondly, the Plenary has been faced with quorum hitches over the last few weeks that perhaps is not solely occasioned by the delayed refund of illegally deducted tax on the Members' motor vehicle reimbursement but also the removal of Plenary allowance by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

In view of the latter, I gave a Communication on this floor on the status of the refund. In this Communication, I indicated that we had commenced engagement with Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). The outcome of the engagement and response from KRA on the matter has already been shared with the Members. I give an undertaking that as we proceed to the long Recess, we shall continue pursuing the matter through all avenues and continuously update Members on progress. Regarding SRC Plenary allowance, we are lucky to have one of us in the leadership of County Assemblies Forum (CAF) that provided a good platform on which such crosscutting matters can be raised and addressed. As an Assembly, we have engaged CAF and we shall not relent until the matter is addressed. I encourage Members to be patient as we pursue these matters.

Hon. Members, as we come to the end of this Session of the 3rd Assembly, I want to wish all of you fruitful engagement with your constituents and wish you a Merry Christmas holiday and a blessed 2024

You are so guided.

I thank you.



The Hon. Kennedy Okeyo Ng'ondi, MCA
SPEAKER, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7th December, 2023

