

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY
(FOURTH SESSION)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

11th February 2025

RESUMPTION FROM LONG RECESS

Honorable Members, have the following Communication to convey: -

Welcoming Members from Long Recess

Honorable Members,

Good afternoon, I take this opportunity to welcome you to this afternoon Sitting that marks the first Sitting as the Assembly resumes from the Long Recess. It is my belief that you had a fulfilling break and time with your families and constituents. There is no doubt that the Recess provided an opportunity to all of us to reflect on your Constitutional calling as well as the individual and collective impact we made during the 3rd Session. It also provided the much needed opportunity to take stock of the shortcomings and challenges that have impacted negatively on our endeavour to deliver on our mandate.

Taking stock of Assembly's Business

Honorable Members,

As we commence this Session, we may refresh ourselves on our broader core duties as a legislature which include of Legislation, Representation, oversight, budget making and policy approval. There is no doubt that in the last three Sessions, this Assembly has made some strides in fulfilling these duties. However, comparatively with the previous Assemblies, I would like to report that we have fallen short in

keeping the graph going up as we have only considered and passed 4 Bills apart from finance related Bills.

For your information, during audit, Bills and Acts take prominence in evaluation of performance of a legislature and has an implication on justification for allocation of funds.

Nonetheless, **Hon. Members**, all is not gloom as we have steadily picking up. Going by the report of the Office of the Clerk at the recent workshop of the Select Committee on Liaison, I can report that a good number of Bills and Legislative Proposals are at various stages of processing, thus, in the coming two months, the Assembly will be called upon to consider them. I want to thank all Members who are actively engaged in originating pieces of legislation and I want to give assurance that my Office and that of the Clerk are committed to ensure that your ideas materialize into Bills. In addition, the Office of the Clerk is always open and ready to provide any support and advice needed to originate legislations.

Processing of Committee Business

Honorable Members,

Committee system is the engine that drives business in a legislature. The Plenary, being an exhibition and a platform for decision making, largely processes what Committees have originated. A preliminary report from the Liaison Committee shows that Assembly Committees, especially Sectoral Committees need to step up effort in exercising oversight and origination of pieces of legislations. Should Committees operate optimally, there should be high traffic of reports and Bills to be considered by the Plenary.

The foregoing report also indicate that there is a big number of pending business rolling over from the last Session including reports on Bills, Policies, Petitions and Statements. Notably, critical business that are still pending include policies such as Development Control; Land Use; Childhood Protection and Safeguarding, and Bills

such as Water and Sewerage Services Bill, Health Services Bill, Regularization Bill, Public Market Bill, Solid Waste Management Bill amongst others that are being processed. I call upon the Chairpersons of Committees to ensure that all pending business are processed presented to the Assembly for consideration. Similarly, the Clerk is hereby requested to expedite drafting services in order to have Bills published for consideration.

Honorable Members,

It has come to my attention that Committees are facing challenges in processing of some of the said business, especially Statements which pile up from previous Sessions. I am alive to some of the challenges that include demanding responses on questions outside the specified Statements, delayed Responses from the respective Sectors, the Members requesting not appearing at meetings whenever CEC Members are invited and pursuit of personal interests through legislative business. I am alive to these challenges and through the Select Committee on Procedure and Rules, we will be proposing amendments to the Standing Orders to cure some of them in the long term. However, in the short term, the office of the Clerk and my office will be applying strict measures to ensure that Statements and Petitions comply to the threshold and procedures set out in Standing Orders and any other law when drafting, processing and approving.

Financial challenges facing the Assembly

Honourable Members,

As you are aware, you exercise a serious Constitutional responsibility that requires that you be provided with necessary resource and administrative support. To achieve this, the Constitution has put in place internal and external mechanisms including creation of bodies with varied mandates. In the case of this Assembly, the Service Board is required to ensure that you exercise your mandate effectively,

efficiently and in the interest of your constituents. However, due to the established fiscal infrastructure of processing and access to funds, the Assembly has been facing serious hurdles. These impediments range from the County Executive failure to honor the Assembly's cash flow projections, delays in forwarding of Assembly's work plans to the Controller of Budget by the Executive to disproportional access to funds at the County Revenue Fund. This has adversely affected the Board's ability to pay travel allowances, suppliers and contractors. As we speak, the pending bills due these items are mounting and has made it difficult to procure air tickets and conference facilities for Committee workshops. In addition, the Assembly is unable to purchase even basic items required to run offices. Further, was it not for the arrangement we have with the Cooperative Bank, we could be going for months without salaries.

However, **Hon. Members**, as Leadership, we are not sitting pretty. Through my office, we are seeking audience with all relevant stakeholders to surmount these challenges. In the long term, we are looking onto the Senate of Kenya to expedite a key piece of legislation that will give County Assemblies financial autonomy. This autonomy will give the Assembly ability to run and manage its own budget. In this regard, you are requested to understand the circumstances we are currently operating and to be patient as we pursue measures to address the challenges.

Broadcasting of Plenary Proceedings

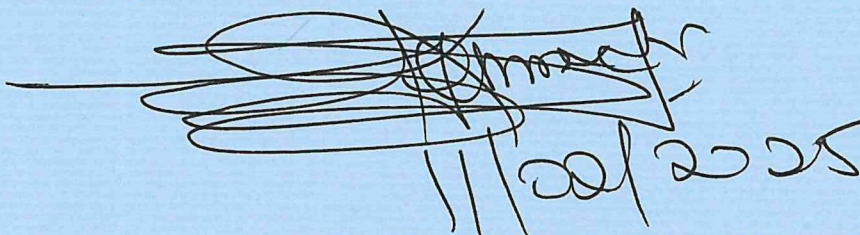
Honourable Members,

Article 196 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 requires that the County Assembly conducts its business in an open manner and hold its Sittings and those of Committee in public. However, the Assembly has been facing challenges of lack of crucial equipment to optimally put in place mechanisms for enhanced publicity of its proceedings. Consequently, the Service Board has continuously been putting in place measures that have recently crystalized to have Plenary proceedings go live on

various platforms. In this regard, I am glad to report that all these plans have materialized and from today going into the future, the proceedings of the Plenary are live on various Assembly social media platforms. I have no doubt that this a remarkable step that will give you the much needed publicity as you articulate issues that concern your constituents. This will also serve to elevate the Assembly and debunk the prevalent notion that the proceedings of the Assembly are delinked from the real issues that affect the people of Nairobi. Accordingly, I encourage all Members to actively participate in debates on various business that pass through this Assembly as we look forward to making it robust enough to cover Committee proceedings.

As I conclude and commit this Session before the Almighty, I invite you to make personal commitment to deliver on individual and collective mandate for this is the basis on which we shall all be appraised by those who put us here. I pray that God gives you wisdom, knowledge, fortitude and determination during this Session as we consolidate our efforts towards achieving the Assembly's strategic goals. I have no doubt that in the remaining short period of 2 years of our 5-year term, we will not fail the people of Nairobi.

I thank you Hon. Members

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kennedy Okeyo Ng'ondi', with a date '11 Feb 2025' written below it.

The Hon. Kennedy Okeyo Ng'ondi, MCA
SPEAKER, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
Tuesday, 11th February, 2025