

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY
(FOURTH SESSION)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

11.11.2025

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A LEGACY FORGED IN FIRE, A NATION MOURNING IN SHADOW: REMEMBERING, HONOURING AND CELEBRATING THE RT. HON. RAILA ODINGA

Honorable Members,

Welcome from Recess

Honorable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this Part of the Assembly Calendar. I thank God that we all have made it back to continue with our Constitutional responsibilities. It is my belief that you had fruitful engagement with your constituents and families and it is anticipated that you will transition all issues that impair the quality of lives of our constituents into business for deliberations and solutions in this Assembly.

Honorable Members,

On the day I was to make an official Communication on the demise of the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, the Assembly lacked quorum because the

news got a majority of Members by shock and many went to condole with the family at his Nairobi residence.

Therefore, in honor of the spirit of the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, shall we all rise to observe a minute of silence.

Honorable Members,

As I proceed to give my official tribute to the departed soul of a hero, I will dedicate this Sitting to the remembrance of the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga. Therefore, after Order No. 7, I will be giving Members the opportunity to address the Assembly in remembrance of the good deeds of the departed giant and celebration of his impactful life. Each Member shall be given a maximum of five (5) minutes. In this regard, I will be calling upon the Leader of Majority to move a procedural Motion to effect the foregoing.

Honorable Members,

As a Kenyan, I received the news of his demise with profound shock and like the rest of the Country, am still burdened by grief and the loss of a Statesman.

Honorable Members,

It should go on record that Hon. Raila Odinga was not merely a politician. He was a force of nature. He was a chapter in our history books that walked among us. His life was a living tapestry, woven with the very threads of Kenya's struggle for democracy, its fight for second liberation, and its relentless pursuit of a more equitable society. To speak of his legacy is to narrate a significant portion of our post-colonial journey.

Many of us in this Chamber, myself included, came of age in a Kenya shaped by his courage. We remember the fiery orator, the defiant pro-democracy activist who bore the scars of the struggle – years of detention without trial, where his spirit, though confined, never broke. He emerged from those dark chambers not with bitterness, but with a renewed resolve to see a Kenya where no other citizen would have to suffer such injustice for their beliefs. He was a key architect of the Constitution of 2010, a document that remains the bedrock of our devolved government – the very system that empowers this County Assembly to serve the people of Nairobi. For this reason alone, his legacy is etched into the foundation of this Assembly.

His service as the Member of Parliament for Langata Constituency, and in various ministerial roles, was marked by a transformative vision. He saw infrastructure not as concrete and steel, but as the arteries of a nation's economy. He championed the development of key facilities that continue to drive our City and our Nation forward. But beyond the bricks and mortar, his true constituency was the common *mwana*. He was the voice of the voiceless, the champion of the hustler, the defender of the downtrodden. He carried the hopes and aspirations of millions who saw in him a reflection of their own struggles and a vessel for their dreams.

To us in Nairobi, he was our neighbor, our leader, our "Jakom." His presence was a constant in our political landscape. His famous phrase, "No retreat, no surrender," was not just a political slogan; it was a philosophy of resilience that inspired a generation to stand up for their rights, to question authority, and to believe in the power of their own voice. He taught us that politics was

not a career for the faint-hearted, but a fierce and noble contest of ideas for the soul of the Nation.

Honorable Members,

In his death, I must also acknowledge the man beyond the political giant. Raila Odinga was a devoted family man, a husband, a father, and a grandfather. We must continue to remember Mama Ida Odinga and the entire Odinga family. The loss they bear is immeasurable, and we, as a nation, share in their loss. As they come to terms with the loss, we pray that they continue finding strength and comfort in the outpouring of love from every corner of Kenya and beyond.

As we mourn, we must also reflect. The life of Raila Odinga challenges us to look beyond our political differences. In this Assembly, we sit on different sides of the aisle. We debate, we disagree, sometimes vigorously. But the passing of a figure of such magnitude reminds us that we are, first and foremost, Kenyans, united by a common destiny. Let his legacy be a bridge across our political divides. Let his unwavering commitment to a united Kenya inspire us to conduct our affairs with greater respect, tolerance, and a shared sense of purpose for the people who elected us.

Honorable Members,

My family has a personal connection to the existence of Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga having visited our home in the company of the President, H.E William Samoei Ruto on 31st June 2025 and shared a sitting with my mother. It was an honor we will remember in our lifetime and a fond memory that our family will always cherish.

Honorable Members,

Fellow Nairobians, the big *Mugumo* tree fell and the roar of "Agwambo" is now a haunting echo. The fire that burned so brightly for decades got extinguished. The journey of the "Enigma" came to its earthly end.

But as we stand in the shadow of this great tree, let us not only mourn. Let us gather the seeds of his courage, his resilience, his unwavering belief in democracy, and his profound love for Kenya. Let us plant these seeds in the fertile ground of our nation's future.

Let us ensure that the battles he fought were not in vain. Let us strive to build the Kenya he dreamed of – a Kenya at peace with itself, a Kenya of justice, a Kenya of opportunity for all, regardless of tribe, race, or social status.

His physical presence is gone, but his spirit, his ideals, and his defiant hope for a better tomorrow must live on in each and every one of us. Let that be his true and everlasting legacy.

Honorable Members,

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you who attended the all Members workshop in Kisumu County and later visited his resting place at *Kango Ka Jaramogi* and Opoda Farm in Bondo. Indeed, it was a profound demonstration of the love and connection we have for the Country's hero. Similarly, the deliberations at the said workshop that was graced by H.E the Governor, Hon. Sakaja Arthur Johnson, were very significant.

Honorable Members,

As I conclude, permit me to highlight some of the resolutions reached at the said workshop that seek to cement the working relationship between the Assembly and the County Executive:

- i. On bursaries and sponsorships, H.E the Governor committed to the reinstatement of the two items in order to continue benefiting and keeping underprivileged and deserving pupils in school;
- ii. With respect to streamlining the working relationship between the Assembly and the Executive, the Governor announced periodic meetings between the Leadership, Members and the Select Committee on Liaison. He put emphasis on Quarterly meetings between his Office and all Members of the County Assembly;
- iii. On implementation of Ward Development programme, the Governor reiterated his commitment to the success of the programme. He stated that his Office will be forwarding a paper to the Assembly for consideration. The objective of the Paper is to streamline the Programme structures and address any challenges that may impede the implementation of projects; and
- iv. With respect to the welfare, the Governor undertook to release assorted food items to Members of the County Assembly to share with the Constituents as the Assembly prepares to proceed to the Long Recess and Christmas holidays.

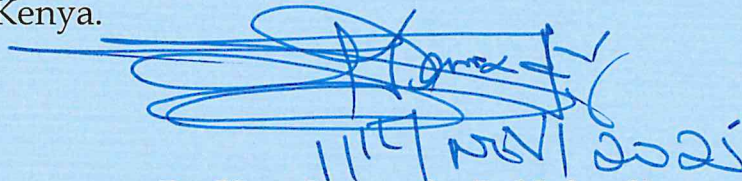
Honorable Members,

On the other hand, the Governor appealed to the Assembly to provide a conducive and enabling working and engagement environment in support of his work and that of the County Executive Committee Members since

quality services to Nairobians depend on the collective and harmonious working relationship between the two arms. To this end, I will be consulting with the Assembly Leadership and the Liaison Committee on the challenges facing the working structures with the Executive and recommend the best way forward.

May God grant the soul of the Right Honorable Raila Amolo Odinga eternal rest. May He comfort his family and fortify our Nation.

Thank you. May God bless Nairobi City County, and may God bless the Republic of Kenya.



Rt. Hon. Kennedy O. Ng'ondi
Speaker, Nairobi City County Assembly
11th November 2025