



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second County Assembly – Fifth Session

Thursday 10th June 2021

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Hon. Deputy Speaker (Mr Geoffrey Majiwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Clerk, we have quorum!

MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Njihia

RENAMING AERODROME ROAD TO DOUGHLAS WAKIIHURI ROAD

Hon. Abraham Njihia: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to read the following Motion: the renaming of Aerodrome Road to Douglas Wakiihuri road. THAT, aware that Article 186 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and Paragraph 5 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provide for the functions and powers of County Government on County Transport including County roads, street lighting, public road transport traffic and parking; further aware that the Country has since independence named and renamed roads and other public facilities in honour of heroes and heroines who have contributed immensely to the development of the Republic; noting that the naming of roads and other public places after heroes and heroines bestows honor and shows gratitude to such people; concerned that there are heroines and heroes who have not had similar honors bestowed upon them despite their immense contributions to this Country; further noting that Douglas Wakiihuri is the Founding Director of Nairobi Sotokoto Safari Half Marathon Limited, Board Member of Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya and Special Olympics, Kenya and the Coach to H.E the First Lady of Kenya who is the founder of Beyond Zero Campaign which has contributed immensely to the health of many women and children in the Country by improving maternal and child health care; further noting that Mr. Wakiihuri is the first Kenyan Gold Medalist of the World Marathon

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Championships in Rome 1987, London Marathon Champion 1989, Commonwealth Games Marathon Gold medalist 1990, Auckland, New Zealand, and World Cup Marathon champion 1995, Athens, Greece; Silver medalist in the Olympic Games, Marathon, 1988, Seoul, South Korea; he is a founder of Kibera Running Club, developing a school in the slums of Kibera and providing breakfast on running days for the Kibera kids; recognizing that Wakiihuri opened up for Kenya to the world of marathon by inspiring many Kenyans who have gone to win various marathons across the globe; further recognizing that road names have been changed before to reflect names and places with significance to Kenyans; this Assembly urges the County Executive in conjunction with the Nairobi Metropolitan Services to rename Aerodrome Road to Douglas Wakiihuri Road in honour of the athletic icon who is regarded as one of the pioneers of marathon championship in Kenya after winning the first Gold medal of the World Marathon Championships in Rome 1987 and inspired many to win world marathon Championships across the globe.

Hon. Speaker, it is a high time that we start rewarding our heroes when they are still alive. Mr. Douglas Wakihori opened the way for very many Kenyans and to this day, marathons have become our glory in the world. We become the team to beat after Mr. Douglas Wakiihuri won the first gold marathon, which we had not won before as a country. So many people have inspired us as Kenyans and that does not reflect on our roads. AeroDrome road is about 500metres and it borders Nyayo stadium, popularly known as Riadha House.

I think it's prudent that we rename this road after this hero. This hero is still alive and I think when he's coming to watch games and finds that this road is named after him, this will continue to inspire very many Kenyans. This great man is contributing a lot.

As you are aware that Douglas Wakihuri is the one who is training our first lady, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta on the campaign of Beyond Zero and at the same time, he is trying to save so many lives and it's prudent that we honour him.

Hon. Speaker, the same gentleman, Douglas Wakihuri, has become a household name in Kibra, every Thursday twice a week he feeds Kibra children who are orphans, and he trains them. This road I think as you are aware, aerodrome is a flight path and I do not see how flight path interrelates with roads because I don't think there are airplanes which can pass on that road which passes through Nyayo Stadium. So, it is prudent that we change this name from aerodrome road to this great pioneer of marathon, Douglas Wakihuri.

We have great people, marathoners here, I have watched our honorable Members, some of them like Hon. Chege Mwaura, I saw him running marathon, I saw Hon. Obuya and Jateso running. We have great marathoners here and we can relate because they are also inspiring people. I would like one day to hear a road named Chege Mwaura Road in Ngara, Kennedy Obuya road in Imara Daima. So without much ado, due to the immense pride this gentleman has brought to Kenya by winning all these marathons, I urge this Assembly to support me in renaming this road.

Hon. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Jeremiah Karani Themendu aka Mo'fire to second me. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Jeremiah Themendu: Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance to second a very good Motion here. I think Mr. Douglas Wakihuri among many athletes has made our country famous by

representing us in different countries of the world in athletics. As a county and as a country we should recognize those heroes who made our country to be recognized in the whole world, as a better place to even come and do practice for the athletes from other countries. As you know Hon. Speaker, even if you see an area like Kerio Valley in Uasin Gishu, many athletes are gathering there and doing exercises, in our country, because they are trying to emulate our athletes. They want to see what they do to make us very famous.

Like the marathon I think is very hectic, you cannot take it lightly for someone to run for 42 kilometres, this is not very easy. For that reason, I second that Aerodrome Road should be renamed Douglas Wakihuri so that even if he cannot himself be aware that we have named the road after him, other athletes and the entire youth who need to engage in athletics shall be motivated to continue doing the same. Thank you Hon. Speaker, and I thank you Hon. Mwangi Njihia for the same, and I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mark Mugambi.

Hon. Mark Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had requested much earlier. I want to echo my sentiments in support of the Motion that we recognize Mr. Wakihuri for the good job that he did in representing our country. As you know, marathon is one of our greatest exports, and it is one of the items that has made Kenya be recognized worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, previously we have seen other heroes be recognized and roads being named after them. We have also seen other people having roads named after them despite not acquiring the status that this great gentleman has played as a statesperson and as an athlete. The name that Hon. Njihia is proposing for rename, I don't think the name compares to something we can relate with as for now.

Therefore, Hon. Speaker, it will be prudent for you and this House, with no further ado, we pass his request. For this, I beg to support.

Hon. Nicholas Okumu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise to support this Motion. It is a very important Motion of renaming a road to one of the greatest heroes in this country. I thank Hon. Njihia because I had no idea of this gentleman by the name Douglas Wakihuri. This Motion has made me know that he has done a great contribution to this country and put our nation on the global map.

We all know that our marathoners have always brought glory to this country. It is important to honor them because of this. Mr. Wakihuri according to this Motion was a marathoner winner in 1987 when some of us were still young and in 1989. He was a gold medalist in 1990 and many other achievements. He deserves recognition in this country and we need to rename a road after him. Since the Aerodrome Road borders Riadha House, it will inspire other young athletes who will be visiting the offices and they can relate with this gentleman who is behind the success of our athletes in this country.

I beg to support this Motion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Mover!

Hon. Abraham Njihia: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank Members who have contributed especially Hon. Jeremiah Themendu for seconding this Motion. I also want to thank Hon. Mark Mugambi, Hon. Nicholas Okumu for their support and all Members of this assembly because I know most of them are on Zoom.

It is prudent that as we celebrate 70 years of Athletic Kenya that we honor this great Kenyan by renaming Aerodrome Road as Douglas Wakihuri Road. Hon. Speaker, I beg to reply. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Members, there being no other business, the assembly adjourns to Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 9.30 a.m. in the morning. Thank you.

The House rose at 3:30 p.m.