

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

(SECOND ASSEMBLY- SECOND SESSION)

*Paper laid by
Hon Paul Kados
on 24/10/18
18/11/18
F.C.A*

REPORT OF THE DELEGATION THAT ATTENDED THE ANNUAL SISTER CITIES
CONFERENCE HELD IN AURORA-DENVER, COLORADO, USA FROM JULY, 31ST TO
8TH AUGUST, 2018

Clerks Chambers
Nairobi City County Assembly
City Hall Buildings
NAIROBI

OCTOBER, 2018

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1.0. PREFACE

Hon. Speaker,

1. Four (4) Members of the County Assembly and one (1) Officer attend the Sister Cities International annual conference which was held at the Hyatt Regency in Aurora-Denver, Colorado, USA from **July, 31st to 8th August, 2018** as approved by the Hon. Speaker. The conference aimed at building relationships among world cities based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, and creating lifelong friendships that provide prosperity and peace.
2. The conference enabled participants to learn and share on how cities can lead efforts in creating smarter, healthier, more inclusive, and more innovative communities. Specifically the conference addressed the following topical issues:-
 - (a) Pioneering Sister Cities Programs along the Silk Road
 - (b) Successful City and Sister City Collaboration Models
 - (c) How Sister Cities Can Change the World
 - (d) Arts and Musical Diplomacy
 - (e) The Human Face of Cities Leading the Way

Composition of the delegation

3. The delegation comprised of the following members:-
 - i) **Hon. Paul Kiguathi, MCA(Leader of the Delegation)**
 - ii) Hon. Peter Wanyoike, MCA
 - iii) Hon. Oyugi Kennedy Odhiambo, MCA
 - iv) Hon Ann Thumbi, MCA; and
 - v) Mr. Shadrack Makokha (Secretary to the delegation)

Sessions

Hon. Speaker,

4. The conference unfolded in various sessions where an expert on a topical issue made a presentation followed by a discussion by a selected panel. There after a plenary was held where participants made contributions and raised questions on issues being conversed. In addition, discussion groups were also formed to allow

in-depth analysis of a topical issue. At the close of the conference, an annual awards dinner and gala was organized.

Appreciation

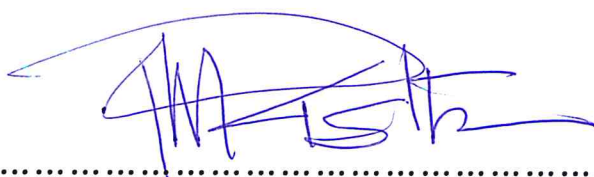
Hon. Speaker,

5. The delegation wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support offered that enabled Members to attend the conference. I also appreciate the assistance extended to the delegation by officials of the Denver sister city international. I am grateful for the Members of the delegation who enabled the fruitful participation in the conference. Special thanks to the secretariat for their support and facilitation prior to and during the period of the conference.

Hon. Speaker,

6. On behalf of the delegation, I now have the honour and pleasure to present this report the delegation that attended the annual Sister Cities Conference attended the annual sister cities conference held in Aurora-Denver, Colorado, USA from **July, 31st to 8th August, 2018.**

Thank You.



SIGNED

HON. PAUL KIGUATHI, MCA

(Leader of the Delegation)

24/15/18

DATE.....

2.0. INTRODUCTION

7. The delegation left Nairobi, Kenya on **Tuesday 31st July, 2018**. While in Denver-Aurora, Colorado the delegation participated in all the sessions of the conference which were held at the Hyatt Regency, Aurora. Members also participated in site visits organized by the conference organizers and toured both Aurora and Denver Cities. The delegation participated in the conference by way of raising questions and giving their views on issues under deliberation at a particular session. Members also created lifelong and fruitful networks with other conference participants, networks which shall be of great benefit to Nairobi City residents.
8. At the side-lines of the conference, the delegation held discussions with representatives of the Denver Sister City International where the representatives reminded members on the long standing relationship between Denver Sister Cities International and Nairobi City. However, it was observed that the relationship was not active due to the failure by the leadership in Nairobi City to follow-up on various activities that had earlier been initiated courtesy of the said relationship. The delegation having met the objectives of the visit returned on Monday 21st November, 2016.



Figure 1: Delegates following up on a presentation in the main plenum

About Sister Cities International

9. Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization which serves as the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States.
10. Eisenhower envisioned an organization that would be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures would celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.
11. The Sister Cities International network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers in nearly 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in more than 140 countries.

About Denver and Aurora Cities (Colorado, USA)

12. Denver City, located at the junction of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, is the state capital and largest city in Colorado. The City was named after James W. Denver, governor of the Kansas Territory that included parts of Colorado. Prospectors settled in Denver in 1858 with the discovery of gold on the shores of Cherry Creek. The opening of gold and silver mines in the 1870s and 1880s brought prosperity to the growing city. Installation of military bases in the area after World War II triggered even more rapid growth.
13. Denver is an important commercial, industrial and transportation hub. Its economy is buoyed by the telecommunications and biomedical technology industries, as well as mining, construction, real estate and tourism. Denver is home to a US Mint and numerous federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Denver International Airport, opened in 1995, is the largest airport in North America, spread over 53 square miles.
14. Aurora, Colorado is the state's third largest city. Its proximity to Denver has long kept it in the realm of Denver suburb. But that is changing as it gains more and

more recognition as a city worthy of its own distinction. The city is known for its cultural food, artistic exhibits, outdoor recreation, and relaxing atmosphere.



Figure 2: One of the streets in Denver City

3.0. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Presentations and discussions

15. The conference was organized in such a manner that there was the main plenum where key note addresses were given and several other specialized workshops which tackled a specific thematic area that participants opted to attend. In addition, there was a youth leadership summit and site visits which participants attended. Apart from attending to the main plenum, the delegation attended workshops with the following thematic areas/topics:-

i.) Main plenum

The following presentations were made in the main plenum:-

- Social Entrepreneurs: A Real Difference
- The Modern Day Gold Rush – Cannabis as an Opportunity for NextGens and Entrepreneurs
- The Success Factor: Women Entrepreneurs
- The Power of Sports Diplomacy
- How Sister Cities Can Change the World
- The Value of Sister City Relationships
- Sister Cities Global Awareness and Impact Panels

ii.) Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

The presenter submitted that:-

- The Belt and Road Initiative can be traced back to the ancient Silk Road that starts from East Asia all the way through Central Asia and connects Europe and North Africa. It is a “21st century silk road,” confusingly made up of a “belt” of overland corridors and a maritime “road” of shipping lanes.
- The concept which is driven by the Chinese Government in terms of financing is anchored on a Chinese saying which goes: “If you want to be rich, build the road first.” It aims at improving regional cooperation and

connectivity on a trans-continental scale. The initiative aims to strengthen infrastructure, trade, and investment links between China and some 65 other countries that account collectively for over 30 percent of global GDP, 62 percent of population, and 75 percent of known energy reserves.

- Sister City International (SCI) is the most important channel to bring people together, the organization is committed to enhance friendship and promote common development. It therefore shares the vision and the goals of the BRI.
- Mutual benefits and win-win is the essence of the Silk Road. Peace and cooperation, connects maritime to the development.
- Infrastructure itself does not produce economic growth. As such, the BRI help local countries to build new industries so that they can have business activities. In return, the countries will hire a lot of local workers and produce new demand. Thus trade and investment is important.

iii.) *Educational Opportunities on the Silk Road*

The presenter **Dr. Cindy Elliott** submitted that:-

- Fort Hays University signed an MOU related to One Belt One Road Initiative with partner Sister City International University.
- The vision of the initiative is to promote closer people-to-people ties while its priority is to improve educational interconnectivity.
- The benefits include:- Dual Bachelor's Degree between the partners, University Alliance, Talent cultivation, Discipline construction, Teacher training, Share knowledge and technology, Methods of Cooperation, Student exchange, Scientific research projects, University think tank, The Belt and Road Initiative is beneficial for multinational education

iv.) *The Knowledge Traveling Along the Silk Road*

The presenter **Gavhar Osimi, Tajikistan** submitted that:-

- One of the powerful factors that build bridges is trade exchange. International trade between the Peoples of the East and West was due to trade routes. Trade routes connecting China and India.
- The Silk Road starts in the second century BC and ends at the fourteenth century AD, a great trade route originated from Chang'an (now Xian) in the east and ended at the Mediterranean in the west, linking China with the Roman Empire.
- Their high school exchange program they would like to offer their support in Mongolia to pay back the supports from Denver

v.) *Mountain Cities: Successful City and Sister City Collaboration Models*

The presenter submitted that:-

- Mountain partnerships mainly dedicate their programs to protecting the mountain environment around the world.
- The American West is warming faster than the rest of the country.
- A lot of mountain cities are dependent on their natural resources.
- Open access is needed in particular areas and communities.
- There is room for tourism and other opportunities in these type of cities/regions.
- City managers and dwellers must create sustainability especially conservation of water resources.

vi.) *Smarter Cities: India Leading the Way Mountain Cities: Successful City and Sister City Collaboration Models.*

The presenter submitted that:-

- Smart cities are all about local involvement.
- The mission of smart cities include:-
 - Adequate water supply
 - Assured electricity supply
 - Sanitation including solid waste management
 - Efficient urban mobility and public transport

- Affordable housing, especially for the poor
- Robust Information Technology
- Smart solutions for cities include:-
 - E-governance and citizen services
 - Waste management
 - Water management
 - Energy management
 - Urban mobility
 - Corporate social responsibilities
 - Include women in entrepreneurship

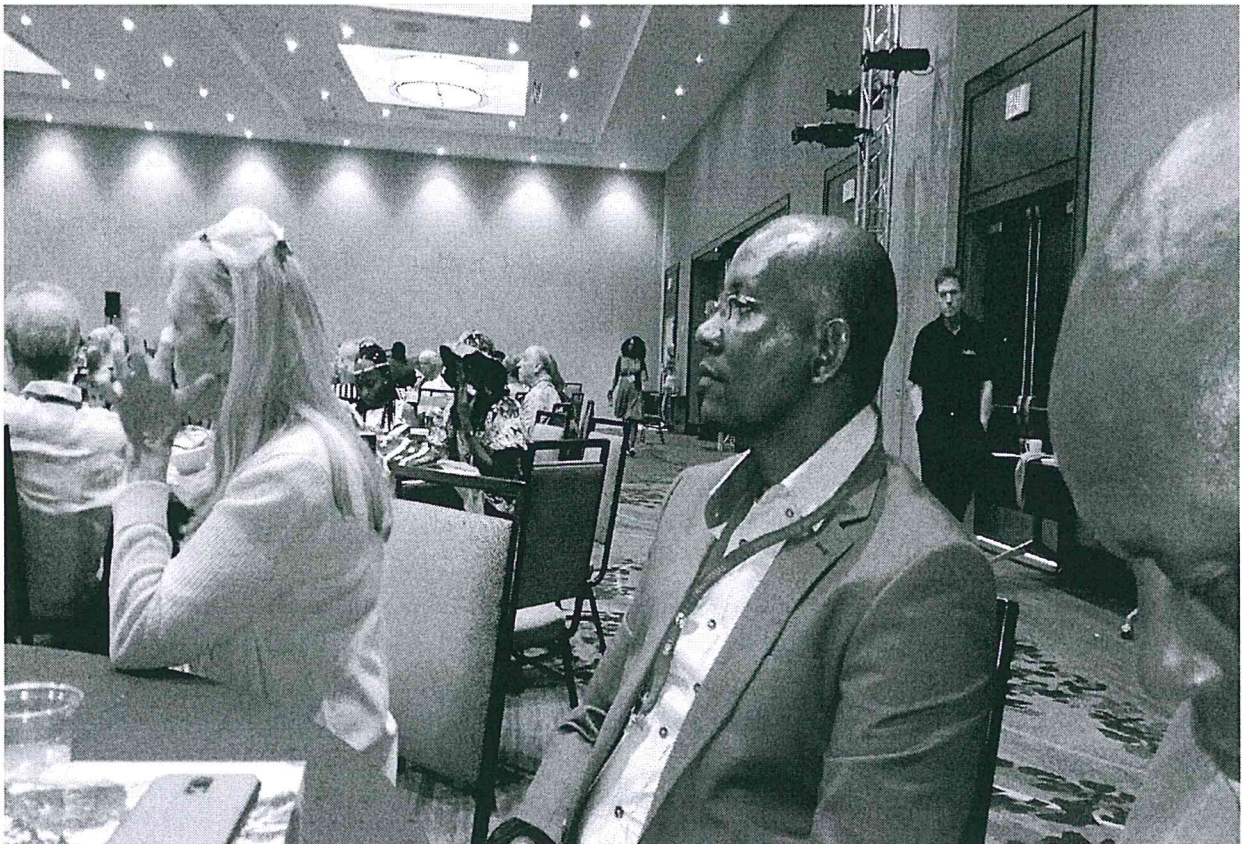


Figure 3: Delegates following up on a presentation in one of the workshops

Tour of Denver and Aurora Cities

16. During the study visit, members had the opportunity to visit the environs of both Aurora and Denver cities the city as part of the fact-finding on how the local authorities deliver services to the residents. Some of the noticeable efficient services provided included an efficient public transport, proper waste

management, well maintained roads and dignified and adequate housing. The most commonly used public transport was mass transport buses, trains and online cabs.

17. There was exceptional obedience of traffic rules and signs by both motorists and pedestrians. The roads were clearly marked and kept clean. Bus stages are well managed with each bus taking specific duration at a bus station, at most 5 minutes before departing. Through application of technology displayed at the bus stops, passengers could easily predict when the next bus would be arriving. Packing was automated. Almost every aspect of the resident's lives is automated thus increasing efficiency.
18. The Local Authorities also provide efficient services such as Disaster and emergency response, traffic management, waste management and an accurate local address system.

Meeting with the Officials of Denver Sister Cities International

19. At the side-lines of the conference, representatives of Denver sister city international held discussions with the delegation where they reminded members of the delegation on the long standing relationship between Denver Sister Cities International and Nairobi City. However, it was observed that the relationship was not active due to the failure by the leadership in Nairobi City to follow-up on various activities that had earlier been initiated courtesy of the said relationship.
20. The representatives from the Denver Sister Cities international indicated to the delegation that the two cities can collaborate on areas such as health, education and youth empowerment. The delegation promised to follow-up with the matter in order to revitalize the relationship.

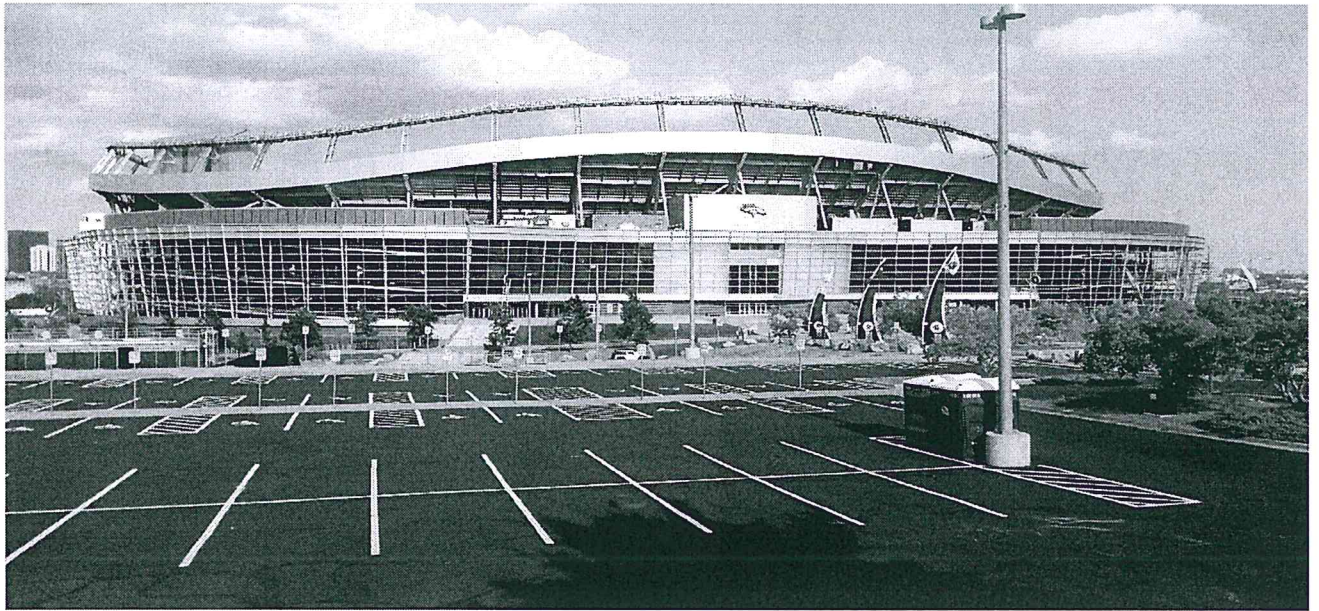


Figure 4: Broncos Stadium in Denver, Colorado



Figure 5: A digital parking machine in Denver



Figure 6: One of the clearly marked avenue

4.0. LESSONS LEARNED

Members having attended the conference and toured the two cities, identified the following as some of the best practices:-

- i.) Sister Cities International is the best forum where cities can build long relationships aimed at assisting residents of the respective cities. In this forum, developing cities like Nairobi stand to benefit from more advanced cities on best practices with regard to city management. Similarly, cities can collaborate in areas such as education, health and environmental conservation.
- ii.) The annual Sister Cities Conference provide an opportunity for delegates to interact and network and learn new things in as far as city management is concerned. It also provides participants to network with on areas they can assist each other especially in areas of health services, education and entrepreneurship. The Communities in developed countries are willing to partners with developing cities to improve the residents' welfare.
- iii.) Automation of service provision by Denver and Aurora cities has tremendously improved the people's lives and has made it easy for the Government to respond to the problems affecting their citizens. Services that are fully automated include; revenue collection especially parking fees collection, physical address, traffic management amongst others.
- iv.) The State government in collaboration with the Federal government has put in place a well-managed integrated public transport system. This includes trains, mass transit buses, taxis and bicycles. Similarly, the public transport is supported with a robust infrastructure that is integrated with technology to improve efficiency.
- v.) Both Denver and Aurora cities are well planned making it easy the provision of services to the residents. The cities' Governments provides infrastructure before any development in initiated i.e. development follows infrastructure such as roads and other public utilities. In addition, environmental conservation is highly regarded and enforced.

- vi.) There were adequate social amenities such as sports grounds and recreational parks for residents owned and maintained by the cities' Governments.

5.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above lessons learned, the delegation recommends the following:-

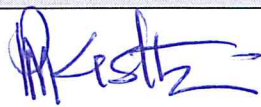

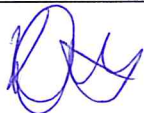

1. That the County Executive through the office of the County Secretary should formally apply for global membership to the Sister City International for the benefit of Nairobi city residents;
2. That the County Executive through the office of the County Secretary should establish a desk/secretariat to follow-up on all Sister Cities International activities. In particular, the County Executive should re-vitalize the Sister Cities relationship with Denver City, USA;
3. That the County Government should work towards the adoption of an improved public transport system that can transport residents in mass to reduce congestion on roads. This should entail adoption of Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) buses and a light railway system. This should be institutionalized in order to eliminate cartels in the Sector;
4. That the County Government in collaboration with other national agencies should re-design County roads to cater for all road users i.e. motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. The roads should be well marked with visible traffic signs and lights/signals. Funds should be set aside in the budget for regular maintenance of road signage and traffic signaling infrastructure. In addition, the County Executive should develop a traffic management legislation that is a live to the current traffic problems facing the city;
5. That the Planning and Housing Sector should immediately commence assigning physical addresses to all properties in the City. The same should be digitized; and
6. That the Nairobi City County Government should adopt modern methods of waste disposal such as recycling as practiced in Denver and Aurora Cities. This

will help in the reduction of amount of waste being dumped and creating employment for those working in recycling plants. In addition, the health and environmental risks posed by the dumping of waste at Dandora dumpsite shall be minimized.

End.....

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DELEGATION THAT ATTENDED THE ANNUAL SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE HELD IN AURORA-DENVER, COLORADO, USA FROM JULY, 31ST TO 8TH AUGUST, 2018

The following members appended their signatures to signify their agreement with the report:-

| No | NAME | SIGN |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Hon. Paul Kiguathi, MCA(Leader of the Delegation) |  |
| 2. | Hon. Peter Wanyoike, MCA |  |
| 3. | Hon. Oyugi Kennedy Odhiambo, MCA |  |
| 4. | Hon Ann Thumbi, MCA |  |

