

NCCA/TJ/NTC/2022(1)

GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY

(FIRST SESSION) ★

19<sup>th</sup> October 2022



NOTICE OF MOTION

**Subject: The Address by the Governor**

Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion:-

**THAT,** The Thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor, laid on the Table of the Assembly today Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. *JS*

*(The Deputy Speaker)*

GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

**THIRD**  
**SECOND**  
SECOND ASSEMBLY  
(NINTH SESSION)



NCCA/TJ/PL/2022(1)

19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

PAPER LAID

SUBJECT: ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR

Pursuant to Standing Order 27(4), I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly, today Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

— THE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR AT THE OPENING OF THE  
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY THIRD ASSEMBLY.

*(The Deputy Speaker)*

Copies to:  
The Speaker  
The Clerk  
Hansard Editor  
Hansard Reporters  
The Press

# NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

Paper laid by  
Hon Deputy Speaker  
on 19/10/2022  
at 2-30 p.m.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sakaja'.

CCA.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REMARKS BY NAIROBI GOVERNOR, SAKAJA ARTHUR JOHNSON, CBS,  
DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022.



**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

I thank God for His goodness, for the gift of life, for the people of Nairobi and for the peace that prevails upon our land. I stand before you, deeply humbled by the privilege and rare responsibility of addressing you; tremendously grateful for the wave of support; good will and encouragement that I have received from you and the people of Nairobi for the last 55 days we have been in office and greatly awed by the significance this day symbolises.

A day such as this, steeped in tradition and pageantry, gives us the historic perspective of the magnitude of the roles that the people of Nairobi have bestowed upon us all seated here today. Allow me therefore to officially congratulate you all honourable members on your successful election to this house to represent the people of Nairobi. I take this opportunity to congratulate you Hon. Speaker and your deputy on your election and acknowledge the great task that lies ahead as you preside over this great assembly of the people of Nairobi. Mr. Speaker, remain assured of my support and comradeship as you play this most important role in our governance structure.

Hearty congratulations also go out to our Senator, Edwin Sifuna, our members of National Assembly and women representative Esther Passaris.

The confidence demonstrated by Nairobians who in their wisdom chose us from a great cocktail of different shades, hues and political affiliations must inspire us to do our best everyday in the interest of the people. We all went through a rigorous election, throughout the 85 wards and 17 constituencies of Nairobi; campaigning as members of different parties and coalitions. Today, however, we come together with a common agenda

and a single purpose to promote the welfare of our people, to defend their rights and to give voice to the many and varied interests of the 5 million people of Nairobi. This is why at the very outset I have committed to work with all the elected leaders of Nairobi regardless of party affiliation in the interest of the people we serve.

When I look round this assembly; I can see that the people of Nairobi chose and they chose well. From the longest serving member Hon. Kados Paul Muiruri Kiguathi who joined this house in 1997 to the youngest elected members Hon. Anthony Maragu and Mark Thiga at 27 years. The voice of the people was heard, at it was resounding. I wish to specially mention the female members who made it in this election. Hon. Susan Makhungu, Rose Masitsa, Waithera Chege and Scholastica Mande. Congratulations for your election as it gives hope to our daughters that they are not limited.

**Hon. Speaker Sir**

Having been a legislator for the last 10 years, in the National Assembly and then at the Senate, I understand the important role of oversight, legislation and representation that this assembly must play. Mr. Speaker, count on my support in strengthening the assembly to play these roles efficiently.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I was born and raised exactly 2.1km from where I stand right now in this assembly and I remember a city that had a semblance of order. A clean city; a green city. I remember efficient public transport, regular water in our taps, security in our neighbourhoods and a working city. Nairobi has been there before and we can get it back there only if we all work together.



Our County Nairobi has the potential to reclaim its glory as the green city in the sun and to stand tall as Africa's true economic and financial capital. A capital city where things work; where there is order; where we all know the rules and abide by them; a place where everyone has an opportunity to thrive. A city where there is clean running water in our homes; a city of dignified living. A city of hope and opportunities. It is possible.

Again, when I look across this assembly; I am reminded of the people we represent. I see them in you all. I see the young man in Mukuru kwa Njenga who is jobless yet educated, the lady in Marikiti who overcomes so many hurdles to get a slot at the market to sell vegetables to feed her children, the father pacing up and down at Pumwani hospital wondering whether his wife will safely deliver their baby. I also see the business man stuck in traffic about to lose a business opportunity due to lateness; I see that child in Kiambiu who is in class but cannot concentrate because she is hungry. But despite that I also see opportunity and hope; because I see you – the leaders these people have chosen to represent them. You are the embodiment of the hopes of millions. We cannot afford to let them down.

The challenges our city faces, though numerous, are not insurmountable. As my deputy likes to say, we cannot boil the ocean, but we shall make tangible and meaningful progress towards the dream of a better Nairobi. I commit, together with my executive, to wake up every single day, fully dedicated to the program outlined in our manifesto that seeks to create a city of Order and Dignity; Hope and Opportunity for all.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The County Executive and the County Assembly each have a respective role to play. I urge both arms of the County Government to work together for the betterment of our city.

The Executive of Nairobi City County Government, right from my office to all other offices, will support all County Assembly Members equally to play their legislative and oversight roles. On the other hand, the County Assembly should play this role in a manner that advances the welfare of those that have been put in our charge, as the Assembly prayer says.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

For a more structured engagement between the Executive and the County Assembly, I am setting up a Liaison Office, under the Office of the Governor. Through this organ, all requests from Honourable Members will be received, processed, and channelled to relevant officers, with solutions provided to address the issues.

This Liaison office will also play the role of facilitating all sectors to keep track of Bills passed by the House, and ensuring that they are implemented. Its main partner will be the Liaison Committee of the County Assembly, to ensure a smooth working relationship between the Executive and the Assembly.

My office will also work to facilitate all members to deliver their own individual manifesto promises that are in line with the county government's development objectives.



The Ward Based Development Projects that aims to devolve projects to the ward level is an important plank of our plan. I pledge my full support to these projects as they shall ensure no part of our great county is left behind in development. This program is going to be better managed going forward. Funds appropriated for the wards will be paid on time, and wards will receive what is rightfully theirs. I urge members to uphold the principles of Article 10 of our constitution of public participation as we involve the public in prioritising these programs.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Nairobi City County Government is to support bright but needy students through bursaries. Over the years, the bursaries have put thousands of children through school and given them a better chance in life. This noble endeavor will continue under my administration. Going forward, bursary cheques, both for the Executive and the Assembly, will be issued at the start of every term. We have taken the step and made arrangements to ensure that bursaries will be issued on time, every time. As we increase our revenues in the coming financial years, we shall also review the amounts allocated to each ward.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

There are initiatives close to my heart that I require your support. I will speak of just a few.

One is the school feeding programme where we seek to provide a meal for all the children in our public primary schools. Many of our children come from homes that can hardly afford one meal a day. Urban poverty is worse than rural poverty and we know that children cannot learn on empty stomachs. It is embarrassing that there are more children out of school per capital in Nairobi due to poverty and hunger than in drought



ravaged counties. We are thus rolling out a programme to construct central kitchens in every sub-county where food will be cooked and distributed to nearby schools. This model, as established by Food for Education, is already working in Dagoretti South and I encourage members to visit Mukarara Primary School to witness its implementation. I want to thank the Members of National Assembly who have already offered to work with us through the National Government Constituency Development Fund in constructing some of the kitchens required and I will urge the rest to follow suit.

My administration will also be pushing aggressive steps to fix Nairobi's waste management challenges. I am of the firm belief that if we don't do something now regarding the state of Nairobi, the city will slide into lawlessness that will be difficult to salvage. I am therefore seeking your partnership to get Nairobi moving, and to ensure a clean and green environment.

Work is ongoing every day. In the last month in office, more than 80,000 tonnes of garbage have been collected from around Nairobi; an ongoing initiative. A lot of this is uncollected waste from the past. We are currently working towards collecting a total of over 3000 tonnes daily. More importantly we are working to curb illegal dumping across the city, new collection points will be gazetted and we will have a public awareness campaign. Those found dumping illegally will be punished; we must keep our city clean.

To bring order and opportunities to the CBD we have called on informal traders and other stakeholders for a public participation forum to discuss a solution for hawkers. We are working to identify streets and alleys where they can continue to do their business in an orderly way. We are a pro

business administration and we intend to position Nairobi as Africa's economic and entrepreneurship hub. As part of the measures towards easing the cost and convenience of doing business, we have made progress towards creating a unified single business permit so that traders and SMEs do not have multiple licenses for them to trade. Let our businesspeople concentrate on doing business as opposed to spending all their energy being harassed on compliance matters. Ours is to encourage and promote business not to stifle and hamper entrepreneurship. In this same vein I urge the National Government to also unify the multiple licenses and fees levied by National institutions like MCSK, PRISK etc into one. I am also lobbying my colleague Governors through the Council of Governors to come up with a solution to the multiple licensing, advertisement fees and cess payments that our traders have to pay when crossing counties. One lorry for instance, moving from Nyeri to Mombasa will have to be stopped more than 10 times to pay the same cess and licenses by our diverse counties. This is hampering trade. I am confident that we will be able to find a solution creatively.

**Members** as you know, we have been dealing with incessant fires in many of our wards and infamously at the Gikomba Market. One of the major causes of the fires at Gikomba has been land speculators and grabbers who intend to push out the traders. The land on which Gikomba sits belongs to the county and we have began the process of surveying the land so as to process the title deed. We also intend to construct a fire station, service the boreholes and hydrants and ensure access throughout the market. We are keen on revamping our disaster response and management and will be coming to the assembly for support.

We also intend to and have began a process of reclaiming grabbed public spaces across the county. We have already fenced the grabbed City Market



land and will construct a market as soon as funds allow. We have a robust program, working with the National Government and security agencies, to ensure that public land, our social halls, our childrens fields remain just that. Public land.

My administration will also construct 20 markets in our sub counties to provide spaces for trade for our citizens. Already we have made progress in the finished markets that were yet to be commissioned due to several bottlenecks that we have unlocked. We shall begin with the commissioning of the New Wakulima Market along Kangundo road followed by Mwariro and Karandini Markets.

**The Youth** of our county are the trustees of our posterity. We will put the required focus on sports and the creative economy as that is a frontier for economic development. We have resolved the disputes that arose on the construction of Dandora Stadium and expect the contractor back on site. Other stadia that will follow include Kihumbuini in Kangemi, Woodely in Kibra, Umeme in Ziwani and the City Stadium. We have lifted all permits and levies on freelance photographers and filmmakers who were previously harassed for filming within the county.

**Honorable Members,** as you are all too aware, the state of healthcare in Nairobi is wanting. Too many of our citizens resort to private facilities because of the state of many of our public hospitals. For those who cannot afford they have to contend with understaffed facilities, sharing beds, and lack of medicine. One of my first executive actions was to set up a health reforms taskforce who's terms of reference are to engage our county staff, members of the public and stakeholders on access to quality health services, the status of our health facilities, the supply chain management of pharma

and non pharma products, the status of health information management and to assess the human resource capacity gaps in our facilities. I look forward to engaging with the health committee of the assembly to make sure that the recommendations of the taskforce, once concluded are implemented. I urge our nurses, who are the backbone of our health system, our doctors and medical personnel to make their representations to the taskforce. Our Community Health Volunteers who play an important role in primary healthcare have already started receiving monthly stipends and will be supported going forward.

We are also keen on lighting up our city. So far close to 5,000 lights have been restored and 225 new ones installed. Roads maintenance is ongoing including patchwork in various main roads, alleys and lanes across the city.

Work is ongoing and this is only the beginning.

Many studies have already been done, including the NIUPLAN that addresses transport and solid waste management challenges, as well as special planning. The recommendations of these studies just need to be implemented and I am committed to get the job done.

To do this, we need to push the boundaries on revenue collection. We are now collecting KSh9 billion a year in Own Source Revenue when studies, including a recent one from the Commission on Revenue Allocation, have shown that we can hit KSh67 billion. We all know that a myriad of reasons have led to revenue leakages in the past including non-digitization of revenue streams, manual collection (and stealing) of cash as well as multiple platforms for payment of rates and other fees. In the last month we have burnt the midnight oil in addressing this and will be launching a new revamped system of revenue administration in the next week. No



money will be received or demanded for in cash. We must reign in all our revenue and on this I shall not compromise.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Nairobi is a rich county that has chosen to be poor, and we must turn this around quickly. We will have to address our debt problem, where our pending bills have now hit KSh99 billion, from the County Government and 16 billion from the outgoing Nairobi Metropolitan Services and put in place measures to prevent further escalation of pending bills.

Fiscal discipline is a must. We must be prepared to tighten our belts as we get our books right. We shall be presenting our fiscal and debt management strategy to this assembly early next year. I truly look forward to your partnership in this endeavor.

We shall further devolve services to the proposed five boroughs and the 17 sub-counties. Automation of county government services will be aggressively pushed to raise revenue and make it easier for residents to access services.

And importantly, the public will be consulted on the county government's plan through genuine public participation; where the voice of Wanjiku really matters and her aspirations are incorporated in all we do.

In the coming days, I will be unveiling my proposed cabinet nominees for vetting and approval by this assembly. I assure the house that I will only propose competent, capable and committed Nairobians to these positions. We will also be bringing the supplementary budget to the house for your

approval so that we can fund these programs for the benefit of the great people of Nairobi.

**Honorable members, as I conclude,** let me reiterate that the responsibility for our county's future rests on our shoulders. And we must rise to the occasion. I am honored that I am addressing the leaders who will go down in history as the agents of the transformation of Nairobi. Leaders who are pre-occupied with the future, not caught up on the past. Leaders who are concerned with taking action -not just using empty rhetoric. Leaders who are capable of ushering in a new era of governance in our city; where the vibrancy and dynamism of our young people carry the day. I am convinced that we will do it. I am confident not because the road ahead will be easy but because we will walk together. Today and in the months and years to come we must make a commitment to align our actions with our faith in the promise of a new Nairobi. Whenever we take any action, pass any bill, make any vote in this house; let us always remember the millions of people who depend on the sobriety and fairness of our actions. I wish you all the best as you begin this new session of the Nairobi County Assembly.

May God bless you, May God bless Kenya and May God bless Nairobi.

**H.E. SAKAJA ARTHUR JOHNSON, CBS**  
**GOVERNOR**