



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY  
SECOND ASSEMBLY - SECOND SESSION

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS**

**Subject: Grabbed land – part of City Market**

**Hon. Speaker,**

Pursuant to Standing Order 45 (2) (c), I wish to request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Planning and Housing and the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs regarding the controversial subdivision and privatization of part City Market.

**Hon. Speaker,** in 1928, the then Colonial Government of Kenya granted the current City Market under L.R No. 209/1855 covering approximately 1.582 acres to the then Nairobi Municipal Corporation of Nairobi for a period of 99 years from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1928 for establishment of a Municipal Market. Subsequently, in the early 1990s the plot L.R No. 209/1855 was sub-divided and two parcels created from it; L.R. No. 209/1855/1 and L.R. No. 209/1855/2 for Public Market Dome and Food Court respectively.

**Hon. Speaker,** on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1992 the then Nairobi City Council irregularly transferred the plot L.R. No. 209/1855/1 to Market Plaza Limited for private development leaving plot L.R. No. 209/1855/2 for the City Market. Further, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2007 the then City Council of Nairobi executed a 10 years contract lease of the Market under L.R. No. 209/1855/1 to Vineyard Holding Ltd associated with one Mr. Nyamu until 2017 which resulted to traders being issued with 45 days eviction notice.

**Hon. Speaker,** in 2010, the then Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) alongside the Ministry of Lands investigated the matter and found the property to have been illegally allocated and directed that the titles be revoked under Gazette Notice 15580 of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and that the property be reverted to the public to be held in trust by the then Nairobi City Council.

**Hon. Speaker,** in 2011, Market Plaza Ltd challenged the revocation of the property L.R. No. 209/1855/1 in court under JR No. 18/2011 which was subsequently dismissed in 2016 by Court. **Hon. Speaker,** it is again from the judicial dismissal that Market Plaza Limited further appealed on the matter in 2017.

**Hon. Speaker,** the said property L.R. No. 209/1855/1 had been gazetted by the Minister of State for National Heritage and Culture vide gazette notice No. 5024 of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 as a National Monument prohibiting structural development in the premises. This was however not challenged by Vineyard Holdings Ltd.