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GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY

(FIRST SESSION)

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Order 47(2) (c), I wish to request for a statement from the Chairpersons of the Sectoral Committees on Children, Early Childhood Education and Vocational Training; and Culture and Community Services regarding the increased presence of street children in the Central Business District (CBD) and various parts of the County especially in Eastleigh and slum areas.

Hon. Speaker, Article 21 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that all State organs and all public officers have the duty to address the needs of vulnerable groups within society, including women, older members of society, persons with disabilities, children, youth, members of minority or marginalized communities, and members of particular ethnic, religious or cultural communities. The Constitution under Article 53 (1) dictates that every child has a right to; -

- a. free and compulsory basic education;
- b. basic nutrition, shelter and health care;
- c. be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.

Hon. Speaker, recent years have witnessed increased number of children begging for food in various designated places in the CBD and various parts of the County especially at peak hours in the evening.

Hon. Speaker, these children are vulnerable to various forms of social, economic and physical vices including harassment, violence, drug abuse and trafficking, sexual exploitation, loneliness and fear, physical and emotional abuse, mental illness and starvation.

Hon. Speaker, my introductory inquiry indicates that there are cartels out to exploit these children and extort from the public. In addition, there are indication that majority of these children are from neighboring Countries.

Hon. Speaker, in Statement, the Chairperson should inquire into and report on: -

i. Whether the children are street families or school going-children sent by cartels who operate on scheduled times to extort money from the members of the Public;