



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY
THIRD ASSEMBLY - SECOND SESSION

APPROVED
27 APR 2023
SPEAKER

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Subject: Harassment of hawkers by Inspectorate Officers in the Central Business District

Hon. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Order 47(2) (c), I wish to request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs regarding harassment of hawkers operating within the Central Business District in the County.

Hon. Speaker, small-scale traders have been recognized to contribute immensely to the economy of the County and the country by extension. Indeed, the need to empower and uplift them is well captured in the incumbent government's manifesto for they form the majority of the potential economic forces in recent economic forecasts. However, a big number of them face challenges such as lack of sufficient capital, access to credit and harassment by authorities for alleged non-compliance.

Hon. Speaker, hawkers in Nairobi City County operate on streets because this is where they can reach their clients easily in order to sell their merchandise. The County Executive has from time to time made promises of providing proper mechanisms to address the plight of hawkers including construction of adequate markets. The most recent was by the County Executive Committee Member for Business and Hustler Opportunities to designate lanes for the hawkers which is taking long than expected. Because of this, the Inspectorate Officers take advantage of lack of proper structures to harass them by confiscating their merchandise without returning them. They allegedly take them to childrens' home within the County. Section 29 of the Nairobi City Inspectorate Act, 2017 outlaws torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment of persons.

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

- i) Whether the County Executive is in the process of formulating of regulations to streamline the operation of hawkers in the County;
- ii) The mechanisms applied by the County Inspectorate Officers in confiscating merchandise belonging to hawkers; and
- iii) Measures that the County Executive is putting in place to ensure that inspectorate Officers enforce County laws without harassment and ill treatment of hawkers'

HON. MWANIKI KWENYA, MCA.
MEMBER FOR NAIROBI CENTRAL WARD

Date: 27.4.2023

Statement issued by
Hon. Mwaniki Kwenya, MCA
on 27/4/2023.
Due two (2) weeks
after recess

27/4/2023