

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Friday, 22nd May, 2020

Special Sitting

*(Convened via Kenya Gazette
Notice No.3649 of 20th May, 2020)*

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]

PRAYER

Proceed, Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. To my hon. colleagues from both sides of aisle and to the future generation who we are bequeathing this world to, I have this to say; party loyalty versus meritocracy are two different things.

My dear brother, a man I respect a lot, Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki, we are here today to discuss the issue of party loyalty and not your competence.

I have sat on this chair and listened to you give your rulings which are well thought out and your competency can never be questioned. The issue at hand has been brought by your party in regards to your loyalty to it.

My brother, you and I have gone through the same challenges. My party loyalty was questioned. I stand here to say that I am fully loyal to my party, ODM.

(Applause)

My party leader had been informed by other squatters - I call them that because they do not have homes - that I was disloyal to the party. That is not true.

My brother, democracy and its defense is a matter of life and death. However, in this case, it is a party loyalty issue. Your goose is cooked. The best you can do is to leave and fight another day.

The fight that I am going through which has brought a lot of questions is what I want to share with you so that you know you are not alone.

I plead with the people of Tharaka Nithi to continue supporting the process of democracy that brought you into this House. When we come into this House, we are given opportunities to serve as Committee Chairpersons, deputy speakers *et cetera*.

In fact, if you remember, my dear brother, when you were elected, I was a competitor. You won and I shook your hand and said congratulations. So, life has ways of teaching us. Some may argue that party loyalty might reduce the greatest to the mere masses. However, these are things which are there in history that we cannot change.

Finally, I do not subscribe to the school of thought that we should blindly respect our parties because of democracy. However, when a party has made a decision, there is nothing that we in this House can do to save you.

If my party made a decision to de-whip me, whether or not I put up a fight, the only thing that I can tell the party is that I am loyal to it. I will stay in that party to fight from within for my position. I believe that the people of Narok, who elected me here, did so because of merit and not because of mediocrity. So, my brother, it will be well. These are positions that we are given. I have come to learn that politics is a dirty game.

Meritocracy versus political party loyalty is something that all of us must define in the future. Are we elected because of merit or our loyalty to the party? In this case, it is because of his loyalty to the party that Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki was given the chance to serve.

I assure my party leader that despite all the rumours he is getting, I and the people of Narok remain loyal to the core.

My brother, I will pray for you.

(Applause)

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Sen. Olekina, proceed.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not want to slow down the process. However, because we are talking about procedures, Standing Order No.1 gives the Speaker latitude to make certain decisions. I do not know whether this would apply to the issue of a Senator voting on behalf of another.

(Loud consultations)