

# PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

## THE SENATE

## THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

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

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

### PRAYER

### PETITION

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I will donate two of my minutes. I will take only two minutes. Let me begin by stating clearly that I---

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Pardon me, Sen. Olekina; I did not get what you said.

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the time is up, with your permission, I can donate a minute to Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr., and a minute to Sen. Dullo.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Since this is your birthday, contribute. I will give them their own time.

**Sen. Olekina:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You are very kind. I completely agree with the recommendation by Sen. Sakaja. I visited the street children when we went to visit them at the Solai site. Let me begin by commending the work of the former Member of Parliament of Nakuru East, Hon. Mututho, for the good work he has done.

I am looking at Section 7 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, following up on the recommendation given by the Committee led by Sen. Sakaja. It clearly says that-

“The President may, on the resolution of the Senate, confer the status of a city on a municipality that meets the criteria set out in section 5, by grant of a charter in the prescribed form.”

Section 5 (1) of the Act stipulates the following-

(e) Has the capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to its residents as provided in the First Schedule;

(f) has institutionalized active participation by its residents in the management of its affairs;

(g) has infrastructural facilities, including but not limited to roads, street lighting, markets and fire stations, and an adequate capacity for disaster management; and---“

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you read the given conditions for conferment to city status, Nakuru municipality does not meet those conditions.

If it did, then they would have provided adequate facilities for all its residents. It would have also involved even the street children in the management of Nakuru County. That is one issue.

I like the fact that slowly by slowly, the Government is beginning to feel the power of this House and the country is beginning to feel the power of this Senate. When we amended the law, we ensured that the role of the Senate is clear.

Let me be the first one to join Sen. Sakaja and his team by saying that I will not vote to allow a county that does not respect its citizens to be conferred city status. Sen. Sakaja has clearly told us, and I concur with him, that being conferred city status is not a matter of brick and mortar.

A month ago, there was a deal signed between the national Government and the County Government of Nakuru where there will be a lot of infrastructure development. A market and a bypass were to be constructed. If that is what that county government perceives as being the only important thing instead of its citizens, then they will not get my vote for them to be conferred a city status. They can have all those buildings which will end up being white elephants because the people will not respect that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to finalise by saying that I appreciate the work of Sen. Sakaja and his team. That makes me feel good. Today being a very special day for me, I feel great that at least we are talking and caring about people who are less fortunate.

I support the sentiments.