

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 9th December, 2020

Special Sitting

*(Convened via Kenya Gazette Notice
No.10308 of 7th December, 2020)*

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

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

CONVENING OF SPECIAL SITTING OF THE SENATE TO
CONSIDER THE PROPOSED REMOVAL BY IMPEACHMENT OF
THE GOVERNOR OF NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me thank you for your Communication. I also rise under Standing Order No.251F(3)(c).

It says-

“The technology is simple, accurate, verifiable, secure and transparent”.

In this country, we have had serious cases of cyber security. Would it be in order for me to request that before we can implement what is in these new Standing Orders, we run a mock session, so that we know that everyone is comfortable and that they can use that virtual service properly for them to represent their counties?

I am asking this because many a times when we are sitting even in our committees and doing virtual sittings, the network is not stable. I think that parliamentary procedures should not be taken lightly.

I have read Article 123 on the power to vote by this House. I am just a little bit concerned that when we allow the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya to allow virtual sittings on matters when our technology is not verifiable or secure, we will be making a mockery of parliamentary procedures. I would like you to give a detailed ruling on this matter, so that when we progress, we know this is secure and verifiable.

I share the concerns of Sen. M. Kajwang’ and the Senator for Nandi County. I would like to beseech you to suspend the operationalization of that Standing Order and

the new changes in the Standing Orders until we can carry out a mock exercise and make sure all Senators have secure gadgets to use. When I read this, I see a lot of room for mischief.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order, let us keep it short.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me finalise. I was not particularly happy with what I saw happening at the Nairobi City County Assembly.

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Order, I said that we should not get into that. That is a subject of--

Sen. Olekina: It had everything to do with the issue of virtual voting.

If you allow me, my plea to you is this, let us suspend the operationalization of this until the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) procures secure gadgets that can be used by Members, so that when we are here representing our counties we are sure that the views of our people are taken seriously.