



**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**WE CANNOT BE COMPROMISED**

We recognize the vital moral, legal and social responsibility of the media in disseminating information to populations in Kenya and beyond. However, we wish to convey our displeasure on the following;

a) A story in one of the dailies dated 1st September, 2014 suggested that MCAs are being bribed to support the referendum. A Case in point is the recent statement by a Member of Embu County Assembly about allowances to spouses. Despite the fact that all MCAs of Embu County Assembly disowned the statement publicly, the media keeps making it look like MCAs countrywide are asking for the peculiar benefit.

**b) Ward Offices**

As far as we know there has been no discussion with the Government on ward offices. A statement in the media indicates that the Government has agreed to put up offices for ward representatives at a cost of KSh. 6.3 Billion.

The fact is, the MCAs do not need the Government to put up offices for them because they already have them. Secondly, putting up facilities for the MCAs to perform their duties is not the responsibility of Government. It is responsibility of the respective County Assembly Service Board and they do not require permission from the Governor or anybody else. When Parliament put up offices for MPs in their constituencies they did not require the President or anybody's consent.

**c) Car Grants**

The President has previously suggested that he supports the clamor for MCAs to have car grants just like their counterparts in Parliament as he understands they need mobility for their jobs. He never promised to give car grants. The President is well aware that he has no authority to do that.

MCAs know that the only institution that can allow car grants as a benefit to Members is the Salaries and Remunerations Commission not the President, Governor or even the National Government. Negotiations on car grants have been on going with the SRC. Why the innuendo that the President is influencing MCAs with car grants that he does not have?

**d) Referendum**

In our recent Summit at Bomas of Kenya, we came up with a very clear statement on referendum. We made clear that the stand of MCAs was not going to be based on party lines, advices or persuasions from the Governors. We said we were going to be guided by two principles:

- A. What in our view is the best interest of the Country.
- B. Saving and anchoring devolution which we believe is being threatened by certain individuals and institutions in their quest for power rather than the welfare of the Country.

At Bomas of Kenya, we decided that we have to make efforts to turn and change a deep seated attitude in the minds of many Kenyans that decisions are made based on party loyalties, tribe or self-interests other than logic. We hope all MCAs will stand up to these ideals for the sake of the Nation.

We expect that the twenty member committee, with input from all County Assemblies, will give independent solutions to the problems bedeviling devolution by whatever method and give the way forward.

SIGNED BY:

**PETER I. KIHUNGI**  
**LEADER OF MAJORITY & MEMBER OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD**

On behalf of all MCAs  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**