

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MURANG'A

THIRD ASSEMBLY - SECOND SESSION

**THE JOINT SECTORAL COMMITTEES ON WATER &
IRRIGATION AND ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

REPORT ON

**APPROVAL HEARING/VETTING OF BRIDGET WAIRIMU
IRUNGU, THE NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
POSITION OF CHIEF OFFICER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE**

Clerks Chambers
Murang'a County Assembly
MURANG'A

April 15, 2023

18 APR 2023



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACCRONYMS

CRB Credit Reference Bureau

~~DCI Directorate of Criminal Investigations~~

HELB Higher Education Loans Board

KCE Kenya Certificate of Education

KRA Kenya Revenue Authority

MCG Murang'a County Government

WSPs Water Service Providers

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committees

Hon. Speaker, the Sectoral Committees on Water & Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources are established pursuant to standing order no. 204. Under the provision of standing order no 204 (5) (f), *to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 198 (Committee on Appointments)*

Further Pursuant to the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders the sectoral Committee on Water and Irrigation is mandated to consider all matters related to implementation of specific national government policies on water for both domestic and industrial use, irrigation, water pans, dams, storm water and sanitation services

The Sectoral Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources is mandated to consider all matters related to implementation of specific National Government Policies on Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, including soil conservation and forestry and control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances and outdoor advertising; Refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal; all matters related to electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation in Murang'a County.

1.2 Joint Committee Membership

The Joint Committee comprises of the following members:-

1. Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu - Chairperson (Water Committee)
2. Hon. Dinah Damaris Muthoni Kagiri - Chairperson (Environment Committee)
3. Hon. Margaret Wanjiku Gichia - Vice Chairperson (Water Committee)
4. Hon. Gladys Wambui Waikau - Vice-chairperson (Environment Committee)
5. Hon. Hon. John Ngugi Kibaiya - Member
6. **Hon. Kenneth Kamau Mwangi** - Member
7. Hon. Samson Mukora Ngigi - Member
8. Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau - Member
9. Hon. Jane Mukami Kigotho - Member
10. Hon. Jeremiah Clement Gichobe Mbatia - Member
11. Hon. Steven Muigai Kimani - Member
12. Hon. Esther Nyawira Kamindo - Member
13. Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau - Member
14. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina - Member
15. Hon. Gatheo Wa Njeri - Member
16. Hon. John Kamwaga Mwangi - Member
17. Hon. Alex Wanyoike Wainaina - Member
18. Hon. John Munyua - Member
19. Hon. Mark Gicheru - Member

1.3 Legal Authorities/Statutes

The Joint Committee were guided by the following statutes in consideration of the nomination of M/s Bridget Wairimu Irungu to the position of Chief Officer for Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change

- a. The Constitution of Kenya 2010.
- b. The County Governments Act, 2012
- c. The Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017.
- d. The Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders

1.4 Terms of Reference

The joint Committees were guided by the following terms of reference;

- a. To report on the observations of the approval hearing/vetting of the nominee for public appointment to the position of Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.
- b. To recommend the approval or rejection of appointment of the nominee to the position of Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

1.5 Acknowledgement

May I take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members of both Committees for their dedication and valuable input during deliberations of the entire vetting process. The Committees also extends its gratitude to the offices of the Hon. Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the professional, technical and logistical support accorded to it during the vetting exercise, which enabled the completion of this report.

On behalf of the joint Committee on Water & Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources and pursuant to Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, section 8 (1) (a) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's Report on the vetting of the nominee for appointment to the position of Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

Thank You.

Signed: 

Dated this; ^{18th}.....Day of April, 2023.

HON. DINAH MUTHONI KAGIRI

CHAIRPERSON - COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Signed: 

Dated this; ^{18th}.....Day of April, 2023.

HON. EDWIN MWANGI WAIRAGU

CHAIRPERSON - COMMITTEE ON WATER AND IRRIGATION

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Notification of Nomination by the Appointing Authority

Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to Section 6 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No. 5 of 2017, the County Secretary vide a letter ref; **MCG/CS/GOV/2 (76)** dated **15th March, 2023** forwarded to the Clerk of the County Assembly notification on nominations by H.E. the Governor for appointment of Chief Officers to various departments of Murang'a County Government which included the name of M/s. Bridget Wairimu Irungu nominee to the position of Chief Officer in the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

2.2 Committal of Notification of Nomination

Through a communication issued during a special sitting held on **28th March, 2023**, the Hon. Speaker informed the House that he had received a notification on the nomination of M/s Bridget Wairimu Irungu for appointment to the position of Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change. He then referred the notification to the joint Committees on Water & Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources for approval hearing/vetting and reporting to the House within 14 days pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017.

2.3 Committee Sitings

The Joint Committee held a sitting on **28th March, 2023** at 4.00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers to consider and adopt the work plan of the vetting process. Another meeting was held on **6th April 2023** during when the vetting exercise was conducted. A workshop was further held on **16th April 2023** at Sports view hotel to adopt the joint Committee's Report.

2.4 Notification to the Public

Section 7 (10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 provides that; ***“any person may, prior to the approval hearing and by a written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated”.***

The Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on Wednesday March 29, 2023 in the Daily Nation and the Star newspapers', inviting members of the public to attend the hearing and/or submit any information or comments on the suitability or otherwise for **appointment of the nominee. The submissions were to be by way of sworn affidavits and possibly accompanied by any documentary evidence, in compliance with Article 196 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 7 (4) and (5) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and Standing Order No. 192 (1).** The said submissions were to be received on or by Tuesday April 4, 2023 at 4.00 p.m.

3.0 LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Issues for Consideration

The Committee observed that the issues for consideration in relation to the nomination and approval exercise are provided for in Section 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assembly Approval) Act as follows –

- (a) the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;*
- (b) the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and*
- (c) the suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominee's credentials, abilities, experience and qualities, meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is being made.*

The joint Committee was satisfied with the criteria that was used to arrive at the nominee. It was also observed that constitutional requirements were met when selecting the nominee by the appointing authority.

The joint Committee noted that the process of selection of the nominee was done by the CPSB and the report annexed.

3.2 Memoranda from the Public in respect of the nominee

Section 7 (10) of the Public Appointments (County Assembly Approvals) Act, provides *that any person may, prior to the approval hearing, and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold office to which the candidate has been nominated.*

In line with the advertisement placed in the print media on Wednesday March 29, 2023 inviting the public to submit written memoranda by way of written statements on oath (affidavits) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee in conformity with Section 7 (10) of the Public Appointments (County Assembly Approvals) Act, 2017. The Committees confirmed that by Tuesday April 4, 2023 the Office of the Clerk had **not received ANY** memoranda.

3.3 Procedure used to arrive at the nominee;

The procedure for appointment of Chief Officers is outlined in Section 45 (1) (a) of the County Government Act as;

'The governor shall nominate qualified and experienced County Chief Officers from among persons competitively sourced and recommended by the County Public Service Board.

3.4 Leadership and Integrity

The Joint Committees, in determining the suitability of the nominee, took into consideration the provisions on leadership and integrity values as outlined under Chapter Six of the Constitution.

4.0 VETTING OF THE NOMINEE

In conducting the approval hearing/vetting process, the Joint Committees on Water & Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources observed that the suitability of the nominee shall be evaluated holistically taking into account the following criteria amongst others as set out in section 7(8),(10) and (11), Section 8 and Section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and a subsequent analysis by the Committee of any legal issues raised;

- i. Academic credentials
- ii. Professional training, experience and employment record
- iii. Potential conflict of Interest
- iv. Vision and Leadership
- v. Expectations and Key Priorities
- vi. Performance and presentation during the interview

Prior to the cross examination the Secretariat on behalf of the joint Committees verified all the original academic certificates, clearance certificates and other documents submitted by the nominee.

4.1 Clearance Requirements

The Secretariat on behalf of the joint Committees verified the following original and updated clearance documents submitted by the nominee;

- i. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
- ii. Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
- iii. Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)
- iv. Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)
- v. Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC)
- vi. National Identity Card

4.2 CROSS EXAMINATION OF M/S BRIDGET WAIRIMU IRUNGU – NOMINEE FOR CHIEF OFFICER TO THE POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ms. Bridget Wairimu Irungu of National Identification Number 32761043, the Chief Officer nominee for the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change appeared before the Committee on Thursday April 6, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. and was cross-examined under oath pursuant to Article 195 of the Constitution. The approval hearing commenced as per the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.

The nominee presented as follows, both orally and in writing:-

Date and Place of Birth

1. She is a Kenyan Citizen born on 5th June 1996 in Maragua, Murang'a County.

Academic and Professional Qualifications

2. She holds a Bachelor of Economics with IT (Second Class Upper Division (Maseno University) (2018) She is duly registered as a Graduate Engineer Reg. No (B13501) by the Engineers Board of Kenya (2018)
3. She has been awarded a certificate of commendation in exemplary volunteer services, 1st Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (November 2018)
4. She has been awarded a certificate in Certified Computer Proficiency Professional (CCPP) at Carlile College (May 2014)
5. She attended Nginda Girls Secondary School where she attained Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) 2013

Employment Record

The nominee has worked in the under listed organizations;

6. She is currently the Project Manager – NG-CDF Kigumo Constituency (August 2022 to date)
7. Assistant Project Manager, Murang'a South Water and Sanitation Company (June 2021 –July 2022)
8. **Project Officer, Maji Planet Limited (January 2020 – May 2021)**
9. Program Officer, Greening Kenya Foundation (December 2018 – December 2019)
10. Protocol and Liaison Team, Blue Economy Conference United Nations Volunteers (UNV) (November 2018)
11. Memberships
The nominee is not a member of any recognized Institution

Public Offices Held

12. The nominee has held the following positions in public Office
 - a) Appointed the Project Manager – NG-CDF Kigumo Constituency
 - b) Appointed Assistant Project Manager, Murang'a South Water and Sanitation Company

13. Political Activities and Affiliations

The Nominee has never engaged with any political activities and affiliations

Sources of Income

14. She listed her sources of all income received during the calendar year preceding her nomination as follows.
 - a) Income from Employment
 - b) Returns from Business / General Trading

Tax Status

15. She has fully complied with tax obligations to the state as confirmed by the Kenya Revenue Authority through the compliance certificate submitted.

Net Worth

16. The nominee estimated her financial net worth at Kshs. 3 Million.

Potential Conflict of Interest

17. She asserted that she has no potential conflict of interest

18. She has not indicated how she would resolve any potential conflict of interest including the procedure she would follow in determining the areas of concern.

19. Pro-Bono / Charity work / Donations to Charity

She has not been involved in any Pro-Bono nor any Charity work

Leadership and Integrity

20. She has not been charged in a Court of Law in the last three (3) years.

21. The nominee has not been adversely mentioned in an investigatory report of Parliament or any other Commission of Inquiry in the last three (3) years.

22. She has no objection to the making of enquires with her present employer / referees in the course of consideration of her nomination.

4.3 General and Sector Specific Questions to the Nominee

Pertaining to her experience, expectations and knowledge of the sector, the nominee submitted as follows;

a) Chief Officer- Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change

The Committee enquired the nominee to explain how her educational and Professional background has prepared her for the position of the Chief Officer, Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

The nominee indicated that, during her training, she has attained the required skills i.e. Resource Management, Planning and Financial skills which will help her execute her work.

b) Key Priorities and Legislation

The Committee probed the nominee on her key priorities in the sector and the kind of Legislation she would propose the County Assembly to enact to improve the sector.

She responded that, noting that the County Assembly is the arm responsible for Legislation, she stated that she would work together with the Members of the County Assembly in formulation of various Legislations related to the sector. She highlighted her key priorities as Irrigation and Solid Waste Management.

c) Current Employment

The nominee was questioned on how she would handle her current job if given the opportunity to work as a Chief Officer.

She retaliated that, if given the job, she would automatically resign from her current job. She stated that, it would be a great opportunity to work for the entire people of Murang'a County.

d) Water Services Providers (WSPs)

The nominee was questioned whether she knew how the County Government is related to Water Service Providers and how many Water Companies are in Murang'a County.

She responded that, the County Government is mandated to fund and direct the Water Service Providers (WSPs) in mapping out areas without water connections, aiding in infrastructure of the same and providing clean water and Sanitation for the residents. She indicated that if given an opportunity, she would collaborate well with the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Water and Irrigation in making sure that the residents of Murang'a County get enough water for domestic use and Irrigation purposes.

On the issue of how many Water Companies are in Murang'a County, she highlighted them as follows;-

1. Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company Limited (MUWASCO)
2. Murang'a South Water and Sanitation Company Limited (MUSWASCO)
3. Gatamathi Water Company
4. Gatanga Water Company
5. Kahuti Water Company

e) Fresh Lakes in Kenya and Dams in Murang'a County.

The Committee sought to know whether the nominee was aware of the number of fresh lakes in Kenya.

She responded that, she was aware of a few and named them as follows

1. Lake Nakuru
2. Lake Victoria
3. Lake Elementaita
4. Lake Turkana

f) Piped water connections and number of dams

The nominee was questioned on whether she was aware of the percentage piped water coverage and the number of dams in Murang'a County.

She retaliated that, according to the CIDP the piped water coverage is estimated to be 67%. On a question on the number of dams in Murang'a she stated that, there are 196 dams in Murang'a County a response that seemed not factual.

g) Nominee's weakness.

The nominee was requested to highlight some of her weaknesses. She responded that, she has a weakness in public speaking, but has been improving since she started engaging more in Public meetings.

h) Dumpsite

The Committee enquired to know whether the nominee had an idea of the status and number of dumpsites in Murang'a County.

She stated that, she was aware of Gikono landfill, which was still under construction.

i) Shortlisting of the nominee

The Committee noted that the nominee had been ranked number three in the shortlisting to the position. The nominee was requested to explain how she ended up in the vetting panel of the Committee.

She responded that, she possesses the right skills and qualifications for the job, and would put in place strategies to improve the sector if given the opportunity. She highlighted that she would embark on the following:-

1. Increase the percentage of piped water connectivity in households
2. Put in place structures which will guide in managing Solid Waste in Murang'a County
3. To enhance food security in the County, she would come up with strategies and practices of good irrigation.

NOMINEE SCORE

NO	ISSUE OF CONSIDERATION	SCORE%	COMMENT
1.	Work experience	68	Good
2.	Education/training	72	Excellent
3.	Interest/ knowledge relating to position	64	Good
4.	Communication skills	68	Good
5.	Presentation	80	Excellent
6.	Decision making/problem solving skills	61	Good
	TOTAL	69	Good

5.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS ON THE SUITABILITY OF M/S BRIDGET WAIRIMU IRUNGU FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OFFICER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire pursuant to Section 7 (9) of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, her Curriculum Vitae and having heard her oral submission during the approval hearing/vetting exercise, the joint Committees made the

following observations on her suitability for appointment as Chief Officer in charge of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change: -

1. **THAT** she satisfies the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya on leadership and integrity having been cleared by the following statutory bodies.
 - a) The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)
 - b) The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
 - c) The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB).
 - d) The Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)
 - e) Ethics and Anti – Corruption Commission (EACC)
2. **THAT** she has never been adversely associated with practices that depict bias, favoritism or nepotism in the discharge of public duties.
3. **THAT** she has not been charged in a Court of Law in the last three (3) years.
4. That the Nominee has no potential conflict of interest
5. That, in accordance to Article 78 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the nominee is eligible for appointment to state office since she is a Kenyan citizen and does not hold dual citizenship.

Other General Observations

1. The nominee possesses education and training relevant to the position of the Chief Officer **to the department of Water Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.**
2. The nomination was as a result of a competitive process.
3. The nominee depicted high levels of understanding on what her mandate is as the Chief Officer to the department.
4. The nominee depicted good communication skills when responding to the questions by the Committee members.
5. The nominee has the work experience needed and that relates to the position of the Chief Officer to the department.
6. The nominee depicted passion, knowledge and interest to serve in the position of the Chief Officer.

Therefore, the under listed majority of members of the Committee found the nominee SUITABLE for appointment as the Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change.

1. Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu
2. Hon. Dinah Damaris Muthoni Kagiri
3. Hon. Margaret Gichia
4. Hon. Gladys Wambui Waikau
5. Hon. Kenneth Kamau Mwangi
6. Hon. Samson Mukora Ngigi
7. Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau

8. Hon. Jane Mukami Kigotho
9. Hon. Jeremiah Clement Gichobe Mbatia
10. Hon. Steven Muigai Kimani
11. Hon. Esther Nyawira Kamindo
12. Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau
13. Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina
14. Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri
15. Hon. John Kamwaga Mwangi
16. Hon. Alex Wanyoike Wainaina
17. Hon. John Munyua
18. Hon. Mark Gicheru

DISSENTING OPINION

However, the following member held a dissenting opinion;

1. Hon. John Kibaiya

THAT the nominee should NOT be recommended for appointment by H.E. the Governor as the Chief Officer in charge of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change Department based on the following reasons:

1. That, her work experience as it relates to the position is not up to standard
2. That, as per her educational / Training, she is well educated but lacks relevance to the position
3. That, her interest and knowledge relating to the position is minimal
4. That, the nominee was not prepared for the vetting and did not conduct any meaningful research for the position sought


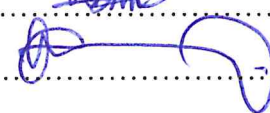
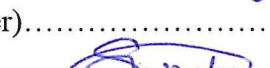

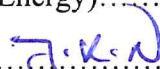


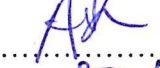


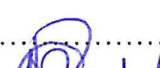

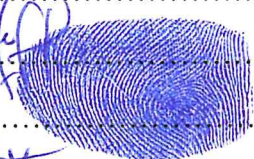

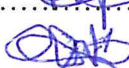


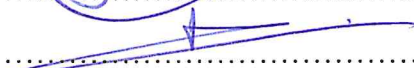
RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Section 9 (2) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Joint Committees **RECOMMENDS;**

THAT the County Assembly **APPROVES** the nomination of M/s Bridget Wairimu Irungu for appointment by H.E. the Governor, as the Chief Officer in charge of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change

7.0 REPORT ADOPTION

By way of appending their signatures, this report was adopted by the underlisted members of the joint Committees on Water & Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources in a sitting held on **April 16, 2023**:-

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Hon. Dinah D. Muthoni Kagiri	- Chairperson (Energy)	
Hon. Edwin Mwangi Wairagu	- Chairperson (Water)	
Hon. Margaret Wanjiku Gichia	- Vice Chairperson (Water)	
Hon. Gladys Waikau	- Vice Chairperson (Energy)	
Hon. Hon. John Ngugi Kibaiya	- Member	
Hon. Kenneth Kamau Mwangi	- Member	
Hon. Samson Mukora Ngigi	- Member	
Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau	- Member	
Hon. Jane Mukami Kigotho	- Member	
Hon. Jeremiah Clement Gichobe	- Member	
Hon. Steven Muigai Kimani	- Member	
Hon. Mark Gicheru	- Member	
Hon. Esther Nyawira Kamindo	- Member	
Hon. Hannah Wairimu Kamau	- Member	
Hon. Naomi Nyambura Maina	- Member	
Hon. Gathee Wa Njeri	- Member	
Hon. John Kamwaga Mwangi	- Member	
Hon. Alex Wanyoike Wainaina	- Member	
Hon. John Munyua	- Member	