

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 18th April 2023.

The Assembly met at 2:45 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta) in the Chair]

PRAYER

MOTION

APPROVAL OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, VETERINARY AND FISHERIES.

Hon. Caroline Njoroje: Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the following Motion; -

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the vetting of Dr. Apollo Kamau Maina, nominee for appointment as Chief Officer, department of Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

I would wish to state that we received the name of the following nominee and I would wish to take Members to page Four. Pursuant to Standing Order 44 (1), the Speaker on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, communicated to the House a message from His Excellency the Governor regarding, among others, the nominee to the position office of Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary Services plus Fisheries.

The Speaker further informed the House that His Excellency the Governor was seeking the approval of the County Assembly on the said nomination before appointment. In accordance with Standing Order 44(3) (c) the Speaker having read the Message from the Governor referred the name of the nominee together with his curriculum vitae to the respective Committee to conduct approval hearings. The Speaker advised the Committee to conduct extensive public participation as provided for under Article 118 of the Constitution as well as Section seven of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017 and Report to the House within 14 days.

The sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary Services was assigned the role of conducting the vetting of the nominees to the position of County Officer in charge of

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Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary Services and Fisheries. The following statutes and provisions guided the Committee as it executed this mandate as stated below. Page five Hon. Members, Madam Speaker on behalf sectoral Committee, pursuant to Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, section 8 (1) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Section 7 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, it is my pleasant duty to Table the Report of the Committee on the vetting of Dr. Apollo Kamau Maina to the office of Chief Officer of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries department for adoption by this House.

Allow me to just take you to the summary of the following Report, you go to page 12, 3.9. the Committee held three sittings during which it examined and reviewed the nominee certificate and testimonials as well as conducting approval hearing. A Report writing retreat was held on April 13 to April 14, 2023 in Nairobi. I would wish to take Members all through at least they can be able to go through the document but I am just doing the highlight of the same.

On page 16 you can see there below 4.2 the general questions to the nominee about the sector. Members were able to ask him questions pertaining his experience, education background, expectations and the knowledge of the sector. After asking him all these questions, the nominee was able to know the mandate that he was given to undertake. Allow me to go to page 20 on what the Committee observed after interrogating this nominee. Page 20 the Committee observations; the Committee having considered the nominee's Curriculum Vitae (CV), other written and oral and submissions during the vetting exercise and made the following observations that the nominee:

- 1) He had satisfied the requirements of chapter six of the Constitution of Kenya on leadership and integrity having been cleared by: the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, (EACC) the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) on Tax Compliance, Higher Educations Loans Board (HELB).
- 2) He has never been charged with a criminal offence in a court of law and has no potential conflict of interest with regard to the position he had been nominated to.
- 3) He has never been dismissed from office for contravention of the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution which deals with conduct of state officers that are adversely mentioned in any investigatory report of Assembly or any commission of inquiry.
- 4) He has the necessary qualifications and extensive experience as seen from the documentation presented to the Committee.

- 5) Have the right attitude and commitment to serve in the position for which he had been nominated as observed from the way he responded to the Members' questions.
- 6) Exhibited impressive knowledge and understanding of issues relating to the docket he had been nominated for appointment.
- 7) Lastly, the Committee noted that the nominee had met the requirements of and Section 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and that he had the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience, which qualifies him for appointment as the of Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Fisheries.

The Committee assessed the nominee in accordance with Section 7(9) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 where he attained an average mean score of 80.7%. Having surpassed the pass mark, the Committee unanimously found the nominee suitable for appointment to the position of Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Fisheries.

The Committee had to sit and come up with these recommendations on page 21. Having considered the suitability, capacity and integrity of the nominees, and pursuant to Article 155 (3) of the Constitution, section 45 (1) of the County Governments Act 2012 and Section 9 (2) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, and the Standing Order 47 (4); the Committee recommends that the County Assembly approves the nomination of Dr. Apollo Maina Kamau Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Fisheries for appointment by H.E. the Governor to the position of Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Fisheries.

Madam Speaker that is how we were able to come up with this Report that this person was suitable to undertake this position, noting that this is a department that is devolved fully, it is my hope that he is going to give us results and not just results but positive results so that he can take our County to the next level. He also assured us that he is going to work hand in hand with the Assembly.

As we interrogated him it is good to note that this nominee was very open and as you know before we interview these nominees, they usually take an oath and because this one was on record, this nominee attended a school by the name Kirogo boys with one of the member who is a member of my Committee, Honourable Member for Mugoiri Ward and he said that he once led a strike there but he said after that he reformed which is good to do that and he was able to progress with

his education. I like people like that, people who are sincere because if you are not and then we come to hear of something of the sort then would be a problem even to us. As it is said all of us are sinners most have reformed to this level. I do call my dear Honourable Leader of Majority to second my Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Thank you Madam Speaker, I was present when Dr. Apollo was being vetted by this Committee. We were impressed by how he was handling the questions that were put to him. He was able to satisfy the Committee that he is the best for this docket of Agriculture as the Chief Officer. Personally, there is this question on how he will alleviate hunger in our County. What impressed me that he responded that once appointed that he would encourage irrigation programs across the County. I felt this is the way to go as a County. We need to encourage many irrigation projects so that when we have drought our County will have ample food.

Number two, he is an experienced man in agricultural activities and veterinary matters having worked in more than four organizations. Thank you, I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Members the Floor is open for debate. Honourable Member for Gitugi.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you honourable Madam Speaker, for catching my eye, or my eye has caught me, whichever the case, I stand here to support the Motion. As far as I am concerned, I go deeply into nitty gritty of anything, what have been presented here by Hon. Carol and seconded by Hon. Leader of Majority it is overboard. This is how we want things to be particularly in our County Murang'a. what I have realised is that the nominee has vast knowledge in terms of agriculture because he is a veterinary doctor, and basically, we have a lot of livestock. It is only another day that we were saying minimum guarantee in terms of milk Kshs3.50 and this is the kind of person that we want because he is very much aware of what is happening in this County.

Again, what has touched my nerve is about irrigation projects because that is where I am so much and if someone comes here to say anything about irrigation that he is going to support that definitely I have to dance his tune. Therefore, I am so comfortable with this gentleman, I have never seen him but I believe what I have seen here from the CV and what has been presented by

Honourable Members it is the best time to approve and accord him the necessary support so that our County can proceed. That is very good and I beg to say that everybody support this. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Gichobe.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: Thank you Madam Speaker, I must admit that your eye is really open, I did not understand how I caught your eye but I must admit you are special in that case.

I rise to support this Motion and I want to congratulate the Committee that undertook this vetting and particularly I want to congratulate my colleague the Chair Hon. Carol even for the great and detailed Report that she has presented to this Assembly. Going through this Report I do not think I and all the people of Kariara ward whom I represent in this Assembly would find a reason not to support this Motion. Madam Speaker, I would want to say that with all my body parts I support this Motion. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member can you give us a few of the body parts that support the agricultural-----

Hon. Gichobe Clement: All of them Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): All of them? I now call the mover to respond.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Madam Speaker, I would wish to say thank you to Honourable Members even unto those who stood to support this Report and this nominee to undertake this position and I am happy that they have supported with all their body parts. I hope they will continue supporting me even I as a Member for Kigumo. I do urge that you will also support me with all your body parts; and I will be glad Honourable Members. Let us continue with that spirit and I still ask you to support. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OFFICERS IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ICT, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

Hon. Naomi Maina: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of the sectoral Committee on Education, Child Welfare and e-Government on the vetting of;

- 1) Mr. Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi, nominee for appointment as Chief Officer department of ICT and E-Government.
- 2) Mr. Leonard Guchu Ndung'u, nominee for appointment as Chief Officer department of Communication and Media and;
- 3) Mr. Isaac Wanjohi Karoga, nominee for appointment as Chief Officer department of Education and Technical Training, laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Madam Speaker, in moving this Motion, I would only and kindly give a summary of the Report as Members have the Report in their files. Pursuant to Section 6 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, the County Secretary through a letter Ref: MCG/CS/GOV/2/76 dated March 15, 2023 submitted to the County Assembly the following nominees to be vetted for appointment to the position of Chief Officers; -

- 1) Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi.
- 2) Leonard Guchu Ndungu.
- 3) Isaac Wanjohi Karoga.

In a special Assembly sitting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, the Hon. Speaker then referred the notification to the Committee on Education, Child welfare, Research, Information Technology and e-government for vetting and reporting to the Assembly within 21 days from the date on which the Committee first sat. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 204 (5) and Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, the process was guided by Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and criteria set out in Section 7 and 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, whereby the considerations and priorities were given. We considered academic qualifications for all the nominees, employment record, professional affiliations, potential conflict of interest, we also looked at their knowledge of the relevant subject,

overall suitability for the position, tax compliance, their integrity, vision and leadership and also we had to ask them of their expectations and key priorities in those areas.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017 the Committee conducted the approval hearing of the three nominees on Thursday, April 6, 2023 and thereafter held a workshop on April 14 to approve their nomination.

Let me briefly highlight the approval hearing of each nominee. We are going to start with Mr. Isaac Wanjohi Karoga the nominee to the position of Chief Officer Education and Technical Training. We have his ID there, appeared before the Committee on Education, Child Welfare Research, Information Technology and E-government. The nominee presented as follows, both orally and in writing. We have what he presented there. We looked at his status, place of birth, we looked at his employment record and tax status. Allow me Madam Speaker to go to Committee observations on the suitability of Mr. Isaac Wanjohi Karoga for appointment as Chief Officer Education and Technical Training.

Having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire pursuant to Section 7 (9) of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, his Curriculum Vitae and having heard his oral submission during the vetting, the Committee made the following observations on his suitability for appointment as Chief Officer for Education and Technical Training;

- 1) He was very presentable and confident while answering questions.
- 2) He displayed a high level of competence and knowledge in the position was nominated to.
- 3) That his academic qualifications and experience in various leadership positions are relevant to the position he has been nominated to.

We go to the approval hearing of Leonard Guchu, the nominee for appointment to the position of Chief Officer, Communication and Media. Mr. Leonard Guchu Ndungu, the identity number is given there, appeared before the Committee on Education, Child Welfare Research, Information Technology and e-Government. The nominee submitted the following both orally and in writing. We were able to look at his marital status, the place of birth, the academic qualification, the employment records we have them, the way he has been holding public offices. I will go straight to Committee observations and the suitability of Mr. Leonard Guchu Ndung'u for appointment as Chief Officer, Communication and Media.

Having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire pursuant to Section 7 (9) of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, his Curriculum Vitae and having heard

his oral submission during the vetting, the Committee made the following observations on his suitability for appointment as Chief Officer for Communication and Media; -

- 1) He has a good education background.
- 2) He has worked in the media industry thus very competent in communication and media.
- 3) He is confident and has passion in the media industry.
- 4) He displayed a high level of leadership skills.

We go to our nominee number three where we have the approval hearing of Mr. Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi for the appointment to position of the Chief Officer, ICT and e-Government.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi, the nominee, we interrogated his marital status, academic qualification, employment record, we have them, he is tax compliant and we also happened to ask him how he would wish to focus if appointed in office. Having in mind that our County now is embracing automation, he stated the following; that he would focus on e-government and that he would also ensure that all departments in the County and the hospitals are connected with IT. He will also help identify with programs which will be laying down the groundwork for automation in the whole County. He will also ensure we automate revenue collection in all hospitals. He will also make sure he aides in budgeting so as to allocate funds for teaching and equipping the youth with better IT skills across the County.

As the Committee we had on the observations; - he was very competent and articulate, he is also very qualified, he has worked in the County and is conversant with County procedures and operations of the County, and he has passion in ICT.

Madam Speaker, having conducted approval hearings of the nominees, the Committee on Education and Child welfare, Research, Information Technology and e-government found the nominees suitable for appointment and hereby recommends that, this Assembly approves the nomination of the following persons appointment as Chief Officers,;-

- 1) Mr. Isaac Wanjohi Karoga, Chief Officer, department of Education and Technical Training.
- 2) Mr. Leonard Guchu Ndung'u, Chief Officer, department of Communication and Media.
- 3) Mr. Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi, Chief Officer, department of ICT and e-Government.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I call upon Hon. Njeri Mwangi to second the Motion.

Hon. Priscilla Mwangi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as a Member of Child Welfare Committee. We looked into the qualifications of these three people and we realized that they qualify, if given a chance they are going to serve our County.

We emphasised on having them qualified, the key thing is being giving a chance because all of us are given a chance and then once you give someone an opportunity, you get to know his potential. We realized that these people are given an opportunity, they are able to deliver. Also as we give them a chance or an opportunity to serve our County, we are with them. It is just not a one-time thing; we are going to check on them. We get to check how they fare on, how they are working, and their commitment. Where they go wrong, we are going to rectify them.

On any other business, we also realized that every member or every person, even us we came when we were not fully able but given an opportunity, we are able to go on well. When you look at Madam Speaker, when we entered here, I thought she is a very black lady but given an opportunity in this Assembly, she is now very brown. Looking at Mr. Kagori, you realise that we are still teaching him the length of the tie and where to put it on.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member please stick to the Motion.

Hon. Priscilla Mwangi: I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable members, the Floor is open for debate. Yes Hon. Hanna.

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Motion on these three nominees; Isaac Wanjohi Karoga----

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Your name, Honourable Member, tell us your name.

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: I am Hon. Hanah Wairimu Kamau, nominated MCA representing gender and member of education Committee. I stand to support the Motion on these three nominees. First is Isaac Wanjohi Karoga, if you can see her academic credentials, it will bring---

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, kindly check the gender of the nominee.

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: Isaac Karoga, if you can see his academic background, it will reflect that nominee is very intelligent. In leadership skills, it will reflect the areas on employment record he had worked. Also, his role, he knows very well his role and you can also see how he had prepared her mind to change the strategic plan to improve education.

The other nominee Leonard Guchu, he is also intelligent through her academic record. He has a wide knowledge in Mass communication. He had worked very well in terms of communication in Murang'a and he has ways to improve Murang'a because he knew very well Murang'a as a whole in terms of communication.

When we come to the nominee Meshack Kipkorir Kipkemoi, he is a young nominee. He has a passion in his role as a CO in this ICT sector. He also has a wide knowledge in ICT sector. To my personal view, he is single, he is my age mate and Madam Speaker---

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, you qualify yourself to our nominee or something?

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: We shall create a partnership that will create dividend as an ICT-

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): You as a person? Honourable Member, you have to let this House know if it is you as a person or we as the House.

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: I am talking about Murang'a County.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): You have told us he is your age mate, so the other things that you say might...

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: The year of birth is the same as mine so he is my age mate.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): How does that one help this House?

(Laughter)

Hon. Hanna Wairimu: The guy is intelligent, being my age mate that means if we give him a role in the CO sector. It is uplifting the standards of youth in our county. That is my personal point of view and when I say it is fat, I didn't say it to be slaughtered.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Leader of Majority, you are sandwiched between two beautiful women that are making you laugh. Give us your contribution and change your position.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: All is well Madam Speaker; I rise to support this Motion on these three nominees. I have seen Meshack work as a volunteer in our County in the program on automation and it has kicked off very well that this county is now automated through the experience of this young man Meshack who is barely 30 years old.

Karoga is well educated as well as Guchu, though Hon. Sharleen Wambui mentioned something good about him. I know she will contribute further on the same about Guchu but these are gentlemen who are well experienced, well-educated and will do good work for our County.

Madam Speaker I support and I don't have to change my position. I am very comfortable here.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Leader of Majority, you are not Leader of Majority that we know.

(Hon. Warisper Elizabeth rose on a point of information)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Yes, what is the point of information Madam Elizabeth?

Hon. Warisper Elizabeth: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I wish the Honourable Majority Leader can substantiate very well about the nominee Ndung'u which he has suggested now that Sharleen will clarify more about, unlike supporting or seconding three of them. I didn't get him very well. He needs to substantiate.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Leader of Majority.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Thank you Madam Speaker. I said Hon. Sharleen well knows this man by the name Guchu and she had mentioned to me that she has something to contribute towards this man Guchu, so given a chance I know she will. Thank you, Madam Speaker

Hon. Sharleen Wambui: first and foremost, I want to thank you for allowing the Honourable Majority Leader not to change his sitting position because as long as he is happy then all the other Members are happy. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, kindly tell this House what you expect when the Majority Leader is happy.

Hon. Sharleen Wambui: Honourable Speaker, when the Honourable Leader of Majority is happy, he will take care of the Members in the right way. I think in one way or the other I am also helping the entire the Assembly.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Leader of Majority, over to you, continue Honourable Sharleen.

Hon. Sharleen Wambui: Madam Speaker, I rise to support the nominee given to us by the committee on Education, but I first of all want to distance myself from knowing one Mr. Leonard Guchu. Madam Speaker, I attended this year's women conference and we were told to deny, deny and deny So, I deny knowing him.

I want to support the appointments because having gone through their CV, I can see they are up to date and up to the task, additionally they are very young men and that means that the youth of the County and country are well taken seriously. Number one I support because they are youth, they are young people who are going to be an inspiration to other young people not only in Murang'a but Kenya as a general. So, Madam Speaker, I am supporting, especially I support the nomination of Isaac Wanjohi Karuga having known him for a very long time. When I served as the student Leader Mt. Kenya University, as the vice president, he was very key to my campaigns for a very long time. He is well connected and well versed in knowing the County, all the constituencies and all the wards and he also has a good track record of his work experience. So, it is not like we are bringing in just a fresh mind into the County but a well brought up man and a very well knowledgeable man. The department of Education is going to be very lucky to have Isaac Wanjohi Karuga as their CO, Madam Speaker I do not have any other addition.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Probably Honourable Sharleen you would have told us whether he is your age mate as well.

Hon. Sharleen Wambui: As much as I would like to, Yes Wanjohi Karuga is my age mate, unfortunately he is married.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: I stand here to support this Motion. However, I do not know the criteria used to select these members who are age mates of certain members. The issue of LGBTQ should not rise again because we have been subjected to that.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Out of Order Sir, to my understanding all the nominees are male and the people saying they are age mates are female.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Madam Speaker, I support this Motion

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Is that your reservations?

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: I withdraw that and proceed

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Kindly.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: However, I have reservations on this, all these members are gentlemen, and gender issues should be taken into consideration. They are perfectly well versed in terms of education and the Committee did a good job to come up with them, but all what I am seeing from my lady Members of the County Assembly, they are aligning themselves to this members, how I wish there were ladies there so that I can align myself to, because I feel out of place because there is male chauvinism in it.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, we have seen your CV and you indicated that you are married, why would you want to align yourself with female nominees?

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Honourable Speaker, there was a time that I attended a male conference and God rest our boss Kibor in eternal peace, that gentleman taught us how to have so many, I am not advocating for that but all that I am saying-----

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, withdraw the statement on aligning yourself, this is an Honourable House you can do that elsewhere.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Honourable Members I accept and I withdraw, I support the Motion as it is.

Hon. Gichobe Clement: I rise to support this Motion, far from what my colleagues have said, I want to congratulate the Governor, the appointing authority, because I have really seen a lot of support to the young people of this County. From the perspective of a young person that I am today, by God's grace, when I see such kind of appointments, I know Mr. Wanjohi Karoga for

some time now, he is a young man and I know what he can do once given a chance. When I see some of these appointments coming in from the Governor, I feel much appreciated as a young person and I think it should go on record that this is the way we should go as a County, to ensure that we take care of these upcoming leaders, give them a chance in the public service so that they can be leaders of tomorrow. And indeed, give young people a chance to take part in policy enactment in our County.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Committee that vetted and made this Report and I want to support it fully. We look forward to the leadership of young people in this County. When you look at the appointments that have been made especially in these positions of Chief Officers, particular the ones that we are discussing now, it is good to note that young people have been appointed in these positions and we look forward to having a vibrant County with leadership of integrity and a lot of energy and we expect that the next five years we are going to make a difference. Therefore, I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon Naomi, chair for Education, next time when you want to address the Speaker, kindly use the right procedure.

Hon. John Munyua: I have some things to note regarding the vetting. As much as they are young people and youth, experience is important, it must be accordingly they will be accounting officers and if they are tricked and sign and money is lost, it must be made clear to them.

The one we have in education, I am a member, there is man called Mr. Karoga, he said that he is worth 150million, I have not seen any justification. Is it a way of saying that after the years of serving, if he is worthy 150 million it will be okay? I urge this Honourable House, let us be getting supporting documents because this might be a way of preparing themselves on siphoning money from the County. So, we did not see any representation of people with disability.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Member, you are a member of that Committee.

Hon. John Munyua: I am supporting this nominee but it must go on record, I am a member regardless but vetting will continue and after three years there will be vetting and it must be clear.

(Hon Kibe Wasary rose on a point of information)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): What is the point of information Honourable Leader of Majority?

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Honourable Member thank you; my point of information is that when we were vetting these Chief Officers, we noted that some of them have inherited wealth from their parents and that may be the reason why the Member for Gaichanjiru said that this person has such wealth, it is good to note that some of it is inherited. Number two, you realize that there is no Person With Disability (PWD) I do not want to justify but it is good to note.

Hon. John Munyua: Even if you are defending, I believe, if it is yours, if it is a piece of land that you have a title, there is no way you can defend that, justification is important and I am not saying anything, just for----

(Hon Elizabeth Warisper rose on a point of Order)

Hon. Elizabeth Warisper: I think even if my Honourable colleague is supporting, there was that one juncture where he was supposed to Table his grievances during the vetting time. At this juncture we are supporting or seconding whatever we are doing on the Floor because we went all the process, now we are finalizing the process. Honourable Speaker, I would wish to tell Honourable Kamunyua not to be worried, the pay slip or the amount of money that these people have, whether inherited or whether these guys were employed or what not. I wish to tell Honourable Kamunyua not to be worried now we are finalizing the process.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: What I see in this House, I do not know why these Members think that we come to this House to just confirm what has been said. It does not matter whether someone sat on that Committee, it is the right of that Member to tell us what he observed. It is important, you do not have to oppose that someone had a right to do that next time, it is for us to get the full information allowed. He is not saying that he is opposing, but next time, what I have heard from him, in near future whenever when we are vetting let us be cautious on this matter. Because it is such that brings problems in future. We have had such cases in the past Assemblies, just because some Member did not raise it. Why did we give these people marks, we did not give them 100 percent, meaning someone was not satisfied with what that nominee said. Meaning, he can be able to challenge at the Committee level or at the House level. It is allowed, Honourable Members, let us not oppose what Honourable Kamunyua is saying because all of us were not there

when this nominee was being vetted. It is important also for the document he is asking, a proof that whatever he was having, why do we even ask about the wealth of a person. If it is not satisfactory, if it is not even attached to anything that is a question. I do not think the Members need to interrupt the Honourable Member. Let us not say that we are all here to support, even the others can be opposed to a nominee and the rest can support. Kindly Honourable Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Caroline, I had said that the Floor is open for debate, Honourable Kamunyua finish your statement.

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Madam Speaker, I want to thank my sister, Honourable Carol for supporting what I am saying. Being a Member of a Committee does not mean that I am lesser when it comes to the Floor. I am not saying that we do away with Wanjohi Karoga, I am saying I am supporting but for future let us do things the right way. We really want to see this County moving forward. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Chair for Education you can respond to the Motion.

Hon. Naomi Maina: Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you for your contribution to this Motion and your input is a clear indication that as an Assembly we are moving towards the right path. I have noted the contribution from Honourable Hanna, the Leader of Majority thank you so much, for sure education will be automated and that will be a gain for this County. I have other contributions from Honourable Wa Risper, thank you noting that the nominee has knowledge, I have noted contributions from Honourable Wairagu, Honourable Gichobe you have noted that young people have been given a chance. I have also noted contribution from Honourable Kamunyua, thank you for pointing out, everybody has a right to point out what he feels it is right. I have noted contribution from Honourable Caroline and all Members, thank you and I would urge you to adopt this Report.

(Question put and agreed to)

APPROVAL OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OFFICER ROADS AND HOUSING.

Hon. Samson Ngigi: Pursuant to Section 45 of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Section 6 of the Public Appointments Act No. 5 of 2017, His Excellency the Governor Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, nominated Mr. Maxwell Fredrick Wambugu Wachira for appointment as Chief Officer, department of Roads and Housing.

Hon. Speaker informed the House that he had received communication from His Excellency the Governor on the nomination of Mr. Maxwell Fredrick Wambugu Wachira among other nominees for appointment of Chief Officers.

Upon committal of the notification, the COMMITTEES held a joint sitting on March 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the County Assembly to adopt the work plan of the vetting and to scrutinize the nominee CV and testimonials forwarded along with the letter from H.E. the Governor.

To ensure a competitive recruitment of a Chief Officer, the County Public Service Board (CPSB) advertised for the positions of Chief Officer in the Daily Nation Newspaper dated December 19, 2022 pursuant to section 59 of the County Governments. 11 applicants were shortlisted for the position of Chief Officer Roads and Housing. These included 10 male applicants and one female applicant. At the conclusion of interviews, the Board settled on seven candidates with Mr. Maxwell Fredrick Wambugu Wachira having attaining the highest score of 498. The committee scrutinized the report of the County Public Service Board and was satisfied with the procedure used to arrive at the nominee.

Pursuant to section 7 (4) and (5) of the Public Appointments Act, 2017, the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. Members of the public were invited to attend the hearing and/or submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee. The Committee confirmed that by Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. the Office of the Clerk had not received any memoranda.

The nominee appeared before the Committee on Wednesday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. for approval hearing on his suitability or otherwise for appointment as Chief Officer, in accordance with section (7) and (8) of the Public Appointments. The Committee observed that the nominee exhibited outstanding credentials, experience and competencies in relation to the position he has been nominated to.

Having conducted the vetting of the nominee pursuant to Section 45 of the County Governments Act, and section (7) and (8) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act 2017, the Committee hereby recommends; that, this House approves the nomination of Mr. Maxwell Fredrick Wambugu Wachira by His Excellency the Governor, for appointment as Chief Officer, Department of Roads and Housing.

Madam Speaker I would like to state, Mr. Maxwell Wambugu is a young gentleman 33 years and to speak the naked truth that guy amazed us with his vast wealth of wisdom. He is an engineer who comes from Mathioya and as we were vetting him everybody was amazed by the way he was answering the questions relating to what he is up to do and I recommend and ask this Assembly to approve Mr. Maxwell Frederick Wambugu to be the Chief Officer for Roads, Transport and Housing and I know with him in our two departments Housing and Roads our County will be well represented. It is quite good to know that of all those nominees I was in their vetting Committees Mr. Maxwell Frederick Wambugu was one of a kind. So, I would call upon the Leader of Majority to second the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Kibe Wasary: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to second and it is good to note that the first person to be vetted was this gentleman Mr. Maxwell Frederick Wambugu. He was the first one and I happened to attend the vetting of this gentleman although I am not a Member of the Committee and as the Chair has said we were amazed by the experience that he was able to portray to the Committee in regards to this docket. Madam Speaker I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Honourable Members the Floor is open for debate. Hon. Caroline.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Munyua.

Hon. John Munyua: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Elizabeth your smile is epitome.

Hon. Warisper Elizabeth: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion, having seen or attended the Committee during the vetting process as an *amicus* I heard how the nominee was articulating his issues and how he is ready to take up the Murang'a County in terms of infrastructure and so many other things in that Department.

Secondly, I wish to support the Committee for having recommended the nominee and find that he is fine and he is okay to take us as Murang'a County people.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you *mheshimiwa* (honourable) Hon. Elizabeth. Hon. Chair Naomi.

Hon. Naomi Maina: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Motion. Allow me to appreciate the good work that has been done by the Committee. I have gone through the Report and it is a clear indication that the nominee is conversant with the work or the position he is about to assume. I have also noted that the nominee demonstrated commitment to be carrying out constant monitoring of the projects being carried out and noting that our County has kick started the projects whereby we are naming them the Community based projects. It will be of great use to our County so I support. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Chairperson you can respond.

Hon. Samson Ngigi: Thank you Madam Speaker. It is good to note that for our County roads is so and having some of the experience to take up the role to take the challenges that we have as a County. And somebody who has understanding I think that is the right thing as we as a County can do. Maxwell was not nominated for this position out of friendship or something, because his papers and past experience talks more of everything. I think that is one of the Chief Officers, we have who have vast good knowledge of what he will be assuming to do. I also thank all the Members for supporting this Motion and I say thank you Hon. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Next

APPROVAL OF NOMINEE FOR NOMINATION AS CHIEF OFFICER WATER, IRRIGATION,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you Hon. Speaker. But for now we are holding a joint Committee Motion for both Water and Energy. As I stand here I am representing the both Committees. Ready to say what is supposed to be said in this Assembly. And therefore, I beg to move the following Motion;

That, this House adopts the Report of the Joint Committee on Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources and Water and Irrigation on the vetting of Ms. Bridget Wairimu Irungu, the nominee for the appointment of Chief Officer in the department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change laid on the Table of the Assembly today Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Hon. Speaker, as we proceed, there is a notification of committal of the nominee through a communication issued during a special sitting held on March 28, 2023. The Hon. Speaker informed the House that he had received a notification of the nomination of Ms. Bridget Wairimu Irungu, the nominee for the appointment of Chief Officer in the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change. He then referred the notification to the joint Committee of Water and Irrigation and Energy, Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources for approval hearing, vetting and reporting to the House within fourteen days, pursuant to Section (47)1 of the Public Appointment Act County Assembly's Approval Act of 2017.

Madam Speaker, without further ado we proceeded with the vetting exercise as I have mentioned there that the joint Committee vetted the nominee with the aim, the view of getting the suitable candidate for this work ahead of us. And therefore we checked on the credentials, we checked on the academics qualifications, we checked even on the professional background, whether she has attached other qualifications, employment and that one was overboard we can report that. There is so much we can talk about this nominee but since they are within our tables I just want to proceed and say that the nominee herself really satisfied us as the Committee particularly in Chapter Six of the Constitution. She was able to report everything which was asked of her, she was even able to address herself so well and actually the entire Committee was really convinced on what she said. It is within our reports on the tables, we can further look at them.

However, our Committee is very democratic and as we were doing the vetting exercise we experienced there was one of our Members who had a dissenting opinion. It is on record that one of the Members had a view, saying that and this is what he dissented by saying that, the nominee should not be recommended that is what he argued. He argued or the Member argued that her work experience to the position is not up to standard. However those are the details he wrote there.

But we looked at what the dissenting Member was saying and now we went back to the marks which we added to this candidate and we realized that in some instances that she had scored up to around 80 percent that is a straight A and even on average score which we gave actually on our page no. four she had an average of 69 percent. In fact it is only one point to a B plus or there about. So in any University, if we are ganging ourselves by qualification she had qualified that. The entire Members the 21 of us qualified her apart from that I have just said.

Therefore now, I will go straight to the recommendation to what we recommended and I am very fast because this is something that is a straight forward matter that this lady, that she

possesses education and training relevant to the position of the Chief Officer to the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change. We also found that the nominee has a work experience needed that relates to the position of the Chief Officer to the Department.

As an accounting officer the nominee is a graduate and she holds a Degree in economics and this is what we need in her docket. To be an accounting officer so everything assigned to her is well taken care of. Actually the nominee depicted that she had all the relevant knowledge because at one point she told us she had worked even for a water company, she had even worked for a CDF institution. So she is able to interact with people because those institutions she has worked for depicts that she is very conversant in terms of communication with the people within Murang'a County.

Therefore, without further ado, what we decided is that her work experience relates to the position she is assigned or she is going to be assigned. Therefore the dissenting opinion of our Member did not really hold a lot of water to us and therefore we did unanimously agree that we approve her to be given that job of a Chief Officer in this Department we work for. Therefore, I will now call the seconder of this Motion my co-Chair Hon. Dinah to second the same.

Hon. Damaris Kagiri: Thank you Madam Speaker, as I rise to second the Motion the nominee Ms. Bridget has worked in MUSWASCO as a Project Manager between June 2021 and July 2022 and therefore she has knowledge and understanding in the position of the Chief Officer for the Department. Also the nominee is qualified for the position due to her academic performance and as an economist she is at good position in the Department.

Madam Speaker I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon Members the Floor is open for debate. Hon. for Nginda.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Motion despite few Members of this Committee who do not work under the desire which they were elected for by their Members, then others work under the clave of their stomach...

(Loud Consultations)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Member for Nginda, kindly withdraw the statement.

Hon. John Mwangi: I withdraw.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): And apologize. Order Members. Kindly, withdraw and apologize.

Hon. John Mwangi: Hon. Speaker, I withdraw and apologize. I support this nominee...

(Hon. Dinah Muthoni rose on a Point of Order)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Dinah, what is your Point of Order? And kindly state the Point of Order you are standing on.

Hon. Damaris Kagiri: Madam Speaker, my Point of Order is on whatever Hon. Mwangi from Nginda is saying.

Last time when we were here, he said that Water Committee are criminals and I want to remind you that we have not forgotten. This is now the second time. I think the Hon. Member should be taken to the Powers and Privileges Committee because we are all Hon. Members. We have not come here to undermine the other Members. That is my Point of Order.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Member for Nginda, kindly refrain from those words and for that, I will deny you this chance. Kindly do not address this House.

Hon. John Mwangi: Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Boniface.

Hon. Boniface Mbau: Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. The nominee for the Department of Water, Madam Bridget. I know the lady, she comes from my Ward, no, from Kigumo Constituency working at the NCGDF. And I also want to thank H.E the Governor for considering so many youth. It is good that we have noted that he has a very good intention to mentor the young people with the leadership position. I know there is a big task that the lady will undertake when she is appointed. I am sure she will let the differences between MUWASCO and MUSWASCO and so many other projects that she will deliver in Murang'a. I support the Motion.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Member for Kagunduni.

Hon. Samson Ngigi: Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to support the Motion and as we all know; the issue of water is a key issue which we are all looking up to for our people to reap maximum benefits out of it. I know Madam Bridget is young and we as young people learn every day and she is going to learn more. The experience she has from MUSWASCO and even the

experience she will have while working in our County, and I also know they will be taken for induction, she will be equipped enough to be able to take up the task.

However, during this rainy season, as you all know, we are just some few months old in this Assembly, and most of our people/electorates are not able to, some extent, understand some of the consents we have in our roads and everything. So, we are taking calls from all sides of our Wards, people explaining about the bad conditions of the roads and so many other problems. So, it is up to us, everybody to understand each and every Hon. Member because we might be having problems, not spiritually, but mentally. If something of a sort has shown any sign, we should kindly ask you, Madam Speaker, to make sure some of us Members have gone for a mental check-up.

Thank you.

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Member for Kagundu-ini, you know mine is to give Orders in the House and not to check on health matters but as a brother or a sister that one can be checked on outside the House. Hon. Gladys.

Hon. Gladys Waikau: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I rise to support. Being a Member of that Committee, I was part of the Committee that took the nomination of Bridget and I found out that she is passionate and interested in environment programs. From her qualifications, I can see she has a certificate in Sustainable Blue Economy that can help this County and she also has a good education background. She is also passionate about climate change. So, I rise to support.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Carol.

Hon. Caroline Njoroge: Thank you Madam Speaker, I thank you for catching my eye. I rise to support and commend this Committee for the great work that they have done. However, I want to congratulate you because of the way you have handled that issue because I was almost walking out of this House because, Members, let us observe decorum. This is a House of rules and you cannot stand here to accuse anybody, especially, if you have a responsibility as a Chair. I am not pointing out anybody but this is something that needs to be checked into, especially by leaders of this House because if it continues like this, then it will not be a House; it will be something else. We shall fight here and the members of the public are looking upon us.

We are leaders, let us have respect for one another. It does not matter whether one supports. I congratulate that Member, he had his own right not to support that person and the Chair stated

very clearly that it is upon him, if the majority supported him, we are okay, we are going to give this lady a chance and after all, even that Member will be the first one to say, I did not like this nominee but by the way she is working because we have had such issues before that you see that person during the interview may not be suitable for a position but later, we come to realize she was even the best. As a lady, I stand here to support but let us observe decorum. If you give somebody a warning and there are no actions taken, these things will keep repeating because somebody does not have respect for some of us in this House. As leaders, let us lead by example, Hon. Members.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you Hon. Carol. Hon. Kagori.

Hon. Kamau Kagori: Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this chance. First is to congratulate the Committee for...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Member, identify yourself.

Hon. Kamau Kagori: Okay, I represent Rwathia Ward. First is to congratulate the Committee for Water and Irrigation. I am a Member and I know the Chair from Gitugi will drive us well until we get what we are supposed to get in every Ward of our County.

I know what our colleague has said can bring differences within us but I think as Hon. Members, let us not stand here and start pointing at each other. If you have done so, you have done it. If you have not eaten, it cannot affect you. If you have eaten, let us not... Yes. Let us keep on checking on us because when I hear, I am a Member of that Committee, I have not eaten, so that is why I ...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Chair, you provide food in your Committee. Hon. Kamau, you have finished?

Hon. Kamau Kagori: No, I have not.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): But refrain. Kindly stick to the Motion, do not go outside.

Hon. Kamau Kagori: Even if I will stick to the Motion, Madam Bridget qualifies...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Kindly stick to the Motion.

Hon. Kamau Kagori: Qualifies for the position. Then, because she qualifies, I know our Chair will invite the lady to the Committee and we agree on what to do with our County because in my Ward, I want water because my electorate do not have irrigation and domestic water.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Chair, respond.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Thank you, Madam Speaker, as I respond to the comments of different Committee Members. It means that a situation of imbalance is erupting in this Assembly and it is the high time for us to think of other extra measures to do because last time as I contributed to my Motion here, I remember history judges, and I was here and I also had a Motion...

(Technical hitch)

It is okay. Let me face the Member. As I was saying, I do not know whether it is during my time when I am standing now to bring my Motion the said Member stands and raises those kind of ...

(Technical hitch)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Sergeant-at-Arms, kindly address the issue.

Hon. Edwin Wairagu: Sorry for that Madam Speaker. I was saying that it becomes like a psychological war. When I am standing here to defend my Motion, those kind of utterances do happen. I am a human being like any other person, if you pinch me I will also feel pain. I do not know whether it is sabotage or what but I now stand to be defended by the Hon. Chair because it keeps on recurring here now and then. What will happen finally, we cannot just sit and wait to see this happen as we watch. Yes, we know we have to be Members of decorum and I respect that. But also, the Member should also respect other people. I am a Chair of that Committee and when I am reduced to zero, I also feel bad. So, I do not want to reduce another person like that. I request, let us be people of decorum.

(Applause)

The other thing, we said that we are controlled only by one, we had one thematic issue and this was about the suitability. And we were not going to some other extremes but ours was concerned about the suitability of this nominee. She passed the test from the other part and we had to scrutinize all the documents which she had. Therefore, for us, we saw it necessary to qualify her because she had all the credentials. Again, I want to say thank you to a number of Hon. Members who have stood to support this Motion and this is the way to go. Let us be united Hon. Members and we know even what our Governor is doing and I am very passionate about that. These young people, 26 years, 27 years, 30 years, 35 years and below, these are the people who are in need and

these are the people who have energy to perform. If you tell me to run 10 kilometres, I am not able to because of my age.

Therefore, when we have this kind of a person being brought by the Governor, even us to qualify her that is a plus to our County for a number of years. I also want to talk about what Hon. Kagori has said, it is in order because he has raised a very pertinent issue here, about water. Water is life and, therefore, what we know, when we have this nominee qualified as she is qualified and we say that she has been working for MUSWASCO, irrespective whether there are some wrangles between here and there, our concern is that she is very much conversant with water related matters. Therefore, the issue of Kagundu-ini, the issue of Ithiru, the issue of Gitugi, everywhere, will be sorted out. Yes, will be sorted out. And we know, for sure, we are moving in the right direction.

The other thing I would say is that of water, people are always smart because if we do not take a shower in the morning, we cannot take the right direction here. By supporting this Motion, we are saying that Water Department should be supported wholeheartedly and every Member rising here on the Floor of the House should rise to support a Motion like this one so that we can have people who are qualified enough to take us to the other level. Therefore, Hon. Members, thank you for supporting this Motion. Let us have this nominee. Let us have Bridget so that she will now make the bridge, as the name depicts, she will make the bridge; where we do now have water, there will be bridges of water; where we do not have tanks, there will be bridges of tanks, as the name depicts, Bridget. So, I stand to support and I thank you, Hon. Members.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Thank you, Chairperson that was incredible. There being no further debate, I will put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

[SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER]

PAPER

**THE MURANG'A COUNTY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2023
TO 2027.**

Hon. Wanyoike Alex: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I beg to lay this Paper;

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That, the Murang'a County Integrated Development (CIDP) Plan, 2023 to 2027, be laid on the Table of the Assembly today, Tuesday April 18 2023.

(Hon. Wanyoike Alex laid the Paper on the Table)

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Grace Nduta): Hon. Members, this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 19th March 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

Thank you.

The Assembly rose at 3:58 p.m.