

THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

6th April 2021

*The County Assembly met at the
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 11.30 a.m.
[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. John Njagi Mucee) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honourable members, let's get seated.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honourable members, good afternoon. I wish you well as you undertake your constitutional mandate and may the love of God and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with you all. Next order.

MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAND, HOUSING
AND PHYSICAL PLANNING ON ITS VETTING OF NOMINEES FOR
APPOINTMENT AS THE MEMBERS OF KATHWANA
MUNICIPALITY BOARD

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, honourable Justin Kithinji, member for Magumoni.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am requesting you to give me directions whether I should seek the leave of the House to move the Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, you have to and also have two members in support.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker I rise to move the Motion on the adoption of the report of the sectoral committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning on vetting of nominees for

appointment as the members of Kathwana Municipality Board. I first seek the leave of the House I request honourable Muthini Karangi and honourable Denis Mutwiri to support.

Hon. Karangi: I support Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Denis rose in his place and bowed to indicate support)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Leave of the House is hereby granted. You may proceed.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As the House is aware, there was a message that was communicated to the committee.

The Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning comprise of the following members, honourable S. Nderi Justin Kithinji- the chairperson, honourable Kathenya Peterson Mwirigi- Vice Chairperson, honourable Kigwari Bonifacia Njeri-Member, honourable Muthitu Denis Mutwiri-Member and honourable Karangi Samuel Muthini-Member.

Mr. Speaker a message was received from the County Secretary vide a letter TNC/CS/APP/2021/01 dated 17th March, 2021 forwarded to the Speaker of the County Assembly, the notification of nomination of three (3) nominees appointed by H.E the Governor pursuant to Section 14(2) (b) of the Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019 for vetting and approval by the County Assembly for appointment as members of Kathwana Municipality Board. The following are the names of the nominees:

1. Ms. Emily Kanana Murungi
2. Dr Fr. Peter Gichunge
3. Mr. Charles Nyaga Chabari .

Mr. Speaker, the reasons were given for how this positions came to be. It is as follows.

As outlined in the Urban Areas and Cities Amendment Act No.3 of 2019, section 11, which repealed section 14 of the principle act and replaced with this new section. A board of a municipality shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the County Governor with the approval of County Assembly.

The Constitution of the board members shall be as follows as per section 14(2) of the Act;

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- The county executive member for the time being responsible for cities and urban areas or his representative;
- Three members who shall be appointed by the County Governor, with the approval of the county assembly;
- Four members who shall be nominated by an association and appointed by the County Governor, with the approval of the County Assembly;
- The chief officer responsible for urban development; and
- The municipal manager appointed under section 28 who shall be the secretary of the board and an ex-officio member of the board.

Currently Kathwana Municipality board has six Members of the board out of the nine appointed members as per Urban Areas and Cities Amendment Act No. 3 of 2019.

This is as a result of the reasons stated below;

1. Mr. Lawrence Gitonga Kaburu- Board Chairman- Resigned in writing to the County Governor.
2. Fred Kibaara Nabea- Board Member- Resigned in writing to the County Governor.
3. Mercy Muthoni Mbuba- Board Vice-Chairperson- Her Appointment was revoked under Gazette Notice 9901 dated 18th November, 2020 having not met the requirement criteria under section 14(6)(a) of the Urban Areas and Cities Amendment Act No.3 of 2019.

These two other board member's appointment were revoked so as to satisfy the requirements of the Urban Areas & Cities Amendment Act. Of 2019 section 14(2)(a)(b)

1. Eva Nkatha John- Board Member- Her Appointment revoked under Gazette Notice 9901 dated 18th November,2020 to be replaced by the CECM- Urban development as per the requirement of the law.
2. Jerioth Murugi Mwenda- Board Member- Her Appointment revoked under Gazette Notice 3745 dated 19th May, 2020 to be replaced by the Chief Officer- Urban development as per the requirement of the law.

Under Section 14 (4) The County Governor shall while appointing the members of the board, ensure gender equity, representation of persons with disability, youth and marginalized groups. Also section 14(6) outlines the criteria to qualify for appointment as a member of the board which were all observed during the nomination.

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In view of the above and to satisfy the requirements of the legal provisions, The Governor, Tharaka Nithi County nominated the names as I read before.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and Standing Order 64(1), the Speaker on 23rd March, 2021 reported to the County Assembly the receipt of the notification of nomination of members to serve in Kathwana Municipality Board. The notification of nomination was therefore committed to the Sectoral Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning for vetting and reporting to the County Assembly within fourteen days in accordance to the Standing Order No.64(4).

Subsequently, the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the local dailies, specifically the Standard and the Star Newspapers on Thursday 25th March, 2021, inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (sworn affidavits) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees in conformity with Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the committee sat and advertised and before the date of the vetting there was no one wrote a memorandum to oppose the appointment of the appointees. I know the honourable members can see the qualifications of the appointees and I don't wish to go through that. The qualifications of the appointees were communicated earlier. Therefore, I will go straight to number 4.

Mr. Speaker, the committee's observations and findings;

The Committee having considered the nominees' Curriculum Vitae and heard their oral submissions during the approval hearing exercise, filled questionnaires pursuant to the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, made the following general observations:

1. That the average score assessed in accordance to the Assessment Form provided for in the Second Schedule of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 for each nominee was as follows:
 - i. Ms. Emily Kanana scored 78%
 - ii. Dr Fr. Peter Gichunge scored 62%
 - iii. Mr. Charles Nyaga scored 84%

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2. That all nominees satisfied the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya on leadership and integrity in that: -
 - i. All nominees have not been charged in a court of law.
 - ii. The nominees do not exhibit a potential conflict of interest.
3. That all the nominees meet the requirements since they exhibited impressive knowledge of topical and legal issues touching on the Municipality and have the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience.
4. That all the nominees committed to unite the communities and deliver services through consultations and conflict management.
5. That all the nominees are passionate about community development and are willing to use their networking skills to source for development partners in resources mobilization and implementation of various projects.

In conclusion, the Committee found all the nominees suitable for the appointments as Members of the Kathwana Municipality Board having met both the Constitutional and statutory requirements.

Committee's Recommendations;

Pursuant to Section 14(2) (b) of the Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act, 2019, Section 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and Standing Order No. 64(4) of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi Standing Orders, the Committee recommends: -

That, this County Assembly approves the following three (3) nominees for the appointment by H.E the Governor as Members of Kathwana Municipality Board: -

1. Ms. Emily Kanana Murungi I.D. Number 24716423
2. Dr Fr. Peter Gichunge I.D. Number 13816035
3. Mr. Charles Nyaga Chabari I.D. Number 4322817

Mr. Speaker that is the report. I do not need to add anything.

I beg to move that the House Adopts the report of the Sectoral Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning on vetting for approval of nominees for appointment as the Members of Kathwana Municipality Board.

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I move.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable S Nderi Justin Kithinji the chair Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning. Do you have a seconder?

Hon. Kithinji: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Muthini Karangi.

Hon. Karangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the Motion. I do confirm that what the honourable chair has read to this House is what we went through during our vetting process. All the nominees were able to pass. I beg this House to approve the appointment of the nominees for the continuity and the development of the municipality of Kathwana.

I confirm that one of the nominee who is a resident of Kathwana is a guy who has a good network and is passionate about bring donors to the municipality so that we can get funding beyond the County governments' and other government agencies' funding. I think there is a new energy to the municipal board which has been stuck for the years since it was put into place. Going by the former members who were there and we do the rating of their work we could be very fair to say they were around 30%. With new energy and zeal, I see in these nominees about to join the board, if they walk the talk and do as per what they were explaining when we were vetting them, Kathwana municipality will be admired not only within this county but in the region.

I second this Motion and I appeal to the honourable members to support.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Samuel Muthini Karangi for seconding the Motion and enriching the report from the committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning.

Honourable members, I now propose the question that the House Adopts the report of the Sectoral Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning on vetting for approval of nominees for appointment as the Members of Kathwana Municipality Board.

Honourable members, the floor is open for debate. Yes, honourable Wilson Derebia, member for Muthambi ward.

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Hon. Derebia: Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise to support the Motion. I first want to thank the chair and the committee for a job well done. They have been elaborate. They are saying that the appointed nominees have the Potential to ensure that this municipality will have more energy so that they will speed up the reaction pertaining development that has stalled in this County.

Why are some people resigning? It is because they have not been called to the correct vocation. If you are eager to do a job, ensure that you do it after you have been given it. It should be that 100% of your expectations have been met so that you can work in a comfort zone.

I once again thank the committee for their findings and I know one day we will be able to meet these people because among the three I know at least one of them and maybe the rest I will be able to meet them. This issue about the vetting of the municipality Board was being discussed in the morning on the radio as I was coming from my home. I know they are equal to the task as the member has said.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Derebia. Yes, honourable Charles Nyaga, member for Mitheru.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, member for Muthambi ward honourable Wilson Nyaga, yes honourable member of Mitheru.

Hon. Charles Nyaga: Thank you Mr. Speaker I am just standing to support but, out of curiosity, I know one member comes from Kathwana municipality, which is in order, because Kathwana is Tharaka Nithi, can we know the other two members where they come from, for proper clarity and owning up to the product and the process? Thank you Mr. Speaker

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honourable member for Mitheru the report has been read and we cannot repeat again so you should have been very keen on whether you support or not support. That is the option for now. Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you, honourable Speaker let me first thank the committee and the chair for bringing the Motion in this House and I am happy that they worked during the Corona times, because maybe this was an urgent issue. When it comes to municipality it is an urgent but when we are losing money within the county maybe it is not an emergency. I thank them.

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I have heard from the list there is a man of God so I believe when we approve members within the county or outside the county maybe we have a problem with their orientation so that they know what they are supposed to do especially when it comes to municipality. I hope we are not going to have another person resigning because of the same, because we are in this House very happy that we are bringing very fresh blood in the municipality and then in one way or the other they resign and nobody knows why. With the man of God maybe he may bring some changes in the municipality.

I support not because that I know them, I know none but it is because I know they are the sons and daughters of the soil. I have a lot of trust with the chair this committee when it comes to interrogations so I believe he has done his best. Maybe he did not invite us to help him when it comes to vetting because he was competent with his committee. As honourable Nyaga asked where they come from, I don't what to know them personally because what I have come to realize we are giving people room and asking where they come from so that when we learn they are from Tharaka, Chuka and wherever they may come from, we start thinking in our mind that they will not perform. Regardless of where one comes from we believe that they are supposed to perform.

Honourable Muthini said that there are people who can bring investors or donors. I don't believe in donors that is why we are poor in our county because when we think about donors that is when we misuse what we have thinking that we may get extra from somewhere else. I know that this House allocates money and also the money that is allocated from other sources we want them to utilize it to the maximum. It is my belief that they are going to do that.

Honourable speaker I support and I believe that the same committee because they have work on their table from my side they are going to work even with the Corona because they have shown they can do that.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Godfrey Muchiri, member for Karingani for being very fair to the people of Tharaka Nithi and also commending the chair. Yes, honourable Erastus Kinyua, member for Mariani.

Hon. Erastus: Thank you Mr. Speaker I stand to support the Motion. I still agree with honourable Nyaga that now that we have known that this Mr. Nyaga Chabari is from Kathwana it is also important to know where Miss Kananu comes from and where the Father comes from. I believe we all know the role of representation and we are even elected

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according to electoral area. It is for representation. We should bear in mind that Kathwana municipality does not cover all the parts of Tharaka Nithi County. It covers only some parts. It extends to Mariani which is part and parcel of this municipality Mr. Speaker. In the first list no one was nominated to represent the people of Mariani which is a part of the municipality.

My point is that even though I support, when the chair will be responding allow him to allow him to state where the other two nominees come from. Miss Kananu might be from Mariani and I do not know. Mr. Gichunge might be from Mariani and I do not know.

I support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Noted honourable member for Mariani. Yes, honourable Mutwiri.

Hon. Dennis: Thank you Mr. Speaker I am a member of this committee and I have participated in everything so I do support the Motion.

For the purpose of clarity and fairness it is true we have a religious father who works in this county and he can work anywhere. Maybe his next posting might be in Mugwe ward. He is a resident of Meru County but works in this county so he has been serving us. We have the other two nominees, one who has been working in Tharaka Nithi for over 10 years that lady from Chogoria, and then we have the other person who is a resident of Kathwana municipality. In the process of vetting we found them competent to serve. Knowing that Kathwana Municipality has been having issues and challenges, I believe that this time round having a religious person with them they will try to involve God in what they are doing and it might help minimize some of the expenses and temperature that made others to resign.

Also as honourable Erastus is saying, he is one of the key stakeholders in the municipality because he is the centre of the municipality. For the principle of fairness, in future when things are being done he is lobbying for consideration Mr. Speaker and I support that a hundred percent.

Having said that I support

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Mutwiri, member for Mugwe. One for confirming to this House that you are an active member of this committee and you have confirmed it by actually solving some of the problems and by giving solutions to the worries of some the members. Yes, honourable member for Marimanti.

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Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr. Speaker I hope you have not forgotten my name. I stand to support the report by the committee on lands, housing and physical planning. I may not know all the nominees but from what I have heard from the committee members I want to believe that they are competent enough. At least I know one person, Mr. Charles Nyaga, who is someone I have really worked with when we were both sub county administrators in the former regime.

Mr. Nyaga is an expert in community development issues. He has a lot of experience in everything to do with community development and development of municipalities is an aspect of community development. He is also a resident of this area and someone who has been seen and heard advocating for this community.

I am also seeing a Father who is a doctor (PhD). I may not know the person but the title tells us a lot that he is really going to pray for this County. He is going to ensure that there won't be corruption in development of this municipality and being a doctor means he experienced and has a lot of skills in developing this municipality.

I am also happy the three nominees are gender balanced. There is one out of two which means they are meeting the two-thirds gender rule. I believe even the lady that I don't know Miss Kanana is also experienced. I believe that committee did not approve somebody who is not experienced and who is not skilled.

What I pray from this committee Mr. Speaker sir is that we should not be having people just because the law states that they should be there. I tried to find out why the chair of that municipality resigned from him not from rumours. One thing is that that board has never been involved in any development issue, it has never been consulted it's just a board that sits there. It's not just that board we have been approving a lot of committees here and boards that are just lying idle they have never been consulted and they have never been involved.

I pray that this committee led by honourable Kithinji is really going to play its oversight role, representation and legislation and they are going to ensure that these nominees are not there for the sake of it. They should not be taken for granted. This committee will ensure that these people with their experience and skills are well utilized so that Kathwana Municipality can develop.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Susan Ngugi Nduyo member for Marimanti. Honourable member for Marimanti I had to use a shortcut because of taking a lot of time responding to honourable Denis. I used the vehicle that brought you here from Marimanti ward thank you. Continue the Debate on the Motion is still on.

Allow me to give the mover time to respond.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker I want to start by sincerely thanking the honourable members of this House because of how they have debated on the Motion before this House. As they stood I could read their intentions because they said they are rising to support.

It is unfortunate honourable member for Mitheru has just walked out because the Father, Dr Gichunge was born in Meru County but he is currently Father in charge diocese of Meru the section of Muthambi and in fact he is the dean. I am not a catholic I am made to understand when we are talking of a Father dean we are talking of a Father who is in charge of a constituency. He is all that endowed and of course he is based at Mitheru and we never know where will be his next posting. It was so impressive how he answered questions pertaining issues to do with corruption. In the Act there is requirement that they declare their wealth he wrote that it's not applicable because; of course some fathers dodge and have some property but he has not found it worth to go against the oaths and have properties

(Laughter)

That one of course was great.

Its again unfortunate honourable Susan has walked out. The lady Kanana was also born in Meru married in Chogoria and is residing in Tharaka. She has been working in Tharaka for the last ten years. If there someone we were feeling she should change hands and even become the manager of this municipality its Miss Kanana. She is a youth but she is already doing her PhD. In fact, she is an over ambitious lady and I just wish there is a bachelor around I could highly recommend that he goes the other way. Sorry she is already gone!

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker honestly when we talk of Mr. Nyaga. Everybody knows that Mr. Nyaga has been a serious critic of the current regime. We also know that he worked with this county government as an administrator. For him to swallow that tab and decide to become just a

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member whereby he will be earning some kind of allowances we could really see the passion in him. As much as the honourable member from Karingani talked of its not good to depend on donors. This is one person who is well connected. He told us he is one who brought water to Kathwana. He looked for donors who brought water to this town of Kathwana. He also told us by the time he was leaving the county government he had other things in the pipeline only that the donors normally work with individuals once he was out those donors pulled out. He was promised us they will be coming back. Much as it's not good to depend on donors its equally important if they come in and do something in this particular County and this particular ward.

With that we know somebody has mentioned the municipality has not been working. If you look at the chairman, vice chair and other members resigned almost a year ago. So it's like the municipality has not been working for a full year and that tells you why we had to work very fast regardless of the issues of Covid-19. I am not saying the other issues are not important but we are also going to do the same.

Mr. Nyaga happens to come from Igambang'ombe and Mariani ward is equally in Igambang'ombe Sub County.

(Laughter)

So when the honourable member says that he is not represented, it is good that he be informed that Mr. Nyaga comes from Igambang'ombe Sub County he his is brother they can share notes and his interests will be represented. He is in the government Mr. Speaker and I know the next big appointment will be coming from Mariani.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker I beg this House to support the motion.

Hon Deputy Speaker: Thank you chair for that smart response and also for being friendly to honourable members. Honourable members allow me to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next order.

ALTERATION OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

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Hon. Deputy Speaker: Where is the honourable member?

Hon. Karangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker I beg to move the Motion on the alteration of the Assembly Calendar.

Aware that; on 17th March 2021 this House altered its calendar for the fifth session as adopted on 9th February 2021;

Further aware that; on 26th March 2021, H.E the President of the Republic of Kenya during the fifteenth presidential address on the coronavirus pandemic issued guidelines on cessation of movement in five Counties and further reduced the number of persons in all physical meetings or gathering to fifteen with strict adherence to the Ministry of Health guidelines due to the high rise of the number of positive Covid-19 cases;

Concerned that; Tharaka Nithi County is not exceptional to the rapid spread of the pandemic as evidenced by the daily briefing of the Ministry of Health;

Cognizant that; on 23rd March 2021 this House approved the procedural motion on consideration of any business received any time when the Assembly is not in session;

Now therefore; Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 39(4) this House resolves to further alter its calendar (regular Sessions) for the fifth session by suspending all its ordinary sittings from Wednesday 7th April 2021 to Wednesday 28th April 2021 and resume its regular sitting on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 9.30 a.m. to continue with the first part of the session at 9.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Motion is very clear. The president of the Republic of Kenya gave some guidelines on 26th of march 2020 on the issue of the third wave of the Corona Virus. We should be wary of the third wave; it has killed our friends, neighbours, people we may know and relatives. We should abide by the directions of the president although we are doing this because under the 2010 constitution the president cannot direct a House whether the County Assemblies, the National Assembly or the Senate to forego their mandate by a mere direction. We have to adjourn the Assembly officially so that we act within the constitution.

As much as we respect the president this honourable House should know that we are acting as per the law. We are guided by the president, we respect him, but the law says that we should, since we set our own calendar, guide ourselves in following the calendar.

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The issue of congestion is serious. I can quote an example of Dr Jeff Omwenga who died from the Corona virus in Tharaka Constituency from Nkondi ward but a resident of Ciakariga ward in Kithinu in Tunyai. Even the chiefs themselves have started to ignore burials because you are told that the numbers should be 50 or 100 but all of sudden the people are over 300. The national intelligence has officers in the burial ceremony and they will write their report that the chief was there and the covid-19 rules were not adhered to. We may think these guidelines are simple but to some extent with the national administration people like chiefs are fearing for their jobs. As we fear for job losses, it is important that we fear for our lives because they can be gone anytime.

I am not an expert in Corona analysis but I am made to understand that Chuka and Kithinu in Tharaka are hotspots. This thing is with us in this County. It is not like when we were talking of Mombasa and Nairobi and other areas. Let us take this motion with the seriousness that it has because of the situation that we are in.

With that I move and beg honourable Nyaga Derebia to second the Motion.

Hon. Derebia: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion and I will do my contribution to the debate because I don't want to stand again. I humbly request the honourable members to take this disease seriously because we can see how the people are living in this county. The situation is not good at all. People are being told by the government not to assemble but they are not taking it seriously. Like honourable Muthini has said, the disease is here with us. What is happening we are only knowing those people who are popular because they have been announced, but the common man is dying out there and nobody is announcing their death.

I am urging the honourable members to take this disease seriously, self-isolate and they also take caution as they educate the electorate that this is a killer disease. The way I have seen my friends dying like ticks I know this disease is not a joke.

I support that we adjourn. I know we are going to continue with other business. I want also to point out in this honourable House that we have two honourable members, I hope the members will support me, honourable Charles Nyaga and honourable Margaret Gitari. The protocols and guidelines by the WHO are very crucial and well stipulated that if someone is 58 years and above, they should avoid gatherings. My humble request is that even if the two honourable members are absent, I request that the Sergeant-at-arms should be recording

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them. For the rest of us who are 57 years and below, if one is absent, he/she should not appear in the record of attendance. We are also taking a risk even as we meet. I want also to encourage my colleagues to take the Covid-19 vaccine. I was vaccinated and I am okay. There is no problem associated with this vaccine. I took it a week ago and I am feeling strong.

I therefore support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Wilson Nyaga. I now propose the question that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 39(4) this House resolves to further alter its calendar (regular Sessions) for the fifth session by suspending all its ordinary sittings from Wednesday 7th April 2021 to Wednesday 28th April 2021 and resume its regular sitting on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 9.30 a.m. to continue with the first part of the session at 9.30 a.m.

I now open the debate. Yes, honourable Kithinji.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion but at the same time, there is a member who in his contribution to the debate spoke of people who are over 58 years. I really do not know how he arrived at that and single out the two honourable members who are over 58 years,

(Laughter)

Because, they usually say that age is comparative. I have seen people in this particular House attending to youth functions, and when you ask around, you hear that they are over 40 years.

(Laughter)

They feel that they are below 35 years and nobody questions them. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I will not support that the two honourable members be exempted from attending Assembly sittings, unless they request on their own because you cannot really tell whether they are 60 or 40 years. Thank you Mr Speaker and I support.

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable Justin Kithinji. Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker, allow me to say that as I support this Motion, I am not all that happy because I am workaholic. I like working. When I hear this House adjourning because of Corona virus and I know this is one of the best Assemblies we have whereby members keep distance as you can see. I have come to realize that there are two areas that people fear most when it comes to Corona Virus. One is this Assembly, and two is the Church. When we are attending to other functions, there is no Corona Virus there.

I therefore do not believe since the last time I saw honourable Wilson was in this House. I fear a whole month how I am not going to see him when we are not in this House.

Sometimes, it is important to share some notes when we are together. I am also fearing that we may have some businesses coming that this House needs to pass. May be we could have amended it to leave a space, that if there is a business that is more serious, I am even suspecting that we may be receiving a supplementary budget that may need some amendments. We are also hoping to get our new budget in June. If we might have some money unspent before then, we might need a supplementary budget. As much as we want to adjourn the House, sometimes, we do not adjourn but instead, the Speaker adjourns until the next sitting that is not specified. That way, it gives us a room to come in this House even if it is tomorrow, even if it is next week, whenever there is business.

I am still thinking that during this period of Corona Virus, the committees have been working. We must learn how to live with this Corona Virus as per now. Majority of us, when we leave here, we are going to attend the burials. I have seen the mover of this Motion talking about the Chiefs not attending burials because they fear the intelligence people. I do not believe that we are working because of the intelligence people nor the police but it is because of the safety of our people and ourselves.

I know the majority will get their way, but I feel that personally, I am not for the adjournment. I withdraw my first statement of supporting the Motion. I do not support it because I feel that I am supposed to work. Death will just find me as I work. Thank you honourable Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Godfrey Muchiri. Honourable members, allow me to say that we are only altering the regular sessions, but special sittings will take

place in case there is need. So honourable members feel free. Also, the committee services shall continue. Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker, it is as if you have provoked me when you say that the special sittings are there. We cannot adjourn the House so that we can later have a special sitting. When we talk about a special sitting, we are talking of gazetting the sitting which is an expense. I do think if we adjourn until the next sitting without mentioning a date it cannot cost us anything. When we talk about gazetting of a special sitting, it will cost this Assembly money. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Godfrey Murithi I have noted your concern but I have just been given an information as what should happen in case they happen. The debate is still on.

(Loud Consultations)

I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you honourable members, and there being no other business on our Order Paper, the House stands adjourned until the next sitting on 4th May 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

****The House rose at 12.22 p.m.****