REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 7th September, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

SELECTION PANEL APPROVAL FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF LCPSB SECRETARY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Wachuka, I beg to lay a paper on the report of vetting of the members of Selection Panel nominated and tasked to recruit the Secretary of Laikipia County Public Service Board. Thank you.

(Hon. Catherine Umija laid the Paper on the table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

SELECTION PANEL APPROVAL FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF LCPSB SECRETARY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT taking into consideration the findings of the Sectoral Committee on Labor, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee in its Report on the Vetting of Members of the Selection Panel nominated and tasked to recruit the Secretary of the Laikipia County Public Service Board dated 7th September, 2023;

PURSUANT to the provisions of Section 58A (1) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and sections 4 and 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017;

THIS House approves the appointment of the following persons as Members of the Selection Panel tasked with the Responsibility of recruiting the Secretary to the Laikipia County Public Service Board;

1. Dr. Naomi Watetu Mbacho.
2. Ms. Minnie Wairimu Kinyanjui.
3. Mr. Robert Kaburia Miano.
4. Ms. Anne Naitiku Kiloku.
5. Mr. Joseph Mwangi.

MOTION

SELECTION PANEL APPROVAL FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF LCPSB SECRETARY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

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THAT taking into consideration the findings of the Sectoral Committee on Labor, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee in its Report on the Vetting of Members of the Selection Panel nominated and tasked to recruit the Secretary of the Laikipia County Public Service Board dated 7th September, 2023;

PURSUANT to the provisions of Section 58A (1) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and sections 4 and 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017;

THIS House approves the appointment of the following persons as Members of the Selection Panel tasked with the Responsibility of recruiting the Secretary to the Laikipia County Public Service Board;

1. Dr. Naomi Watetu Mbacho.
2. Ms. Minnie Wairimu Kinyanjui.
3. Mr. Robert Kaburia Miano.
4. Ms. Anne Naitiku Kiloku.
5. Mr. Joseph Mwangi.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that as a committee we have done the report of the five members who are supposed to be recruiting the secretary of Laikipia Service Board. As a committee we sat down and vetted the people and found that they are very competent. I just want to do an introduction of a report that we have already done.

One, the Sectorial Committee of Labour Social Welfare and Community Services was constituted on 26th October, 2022 in the first session of the 3rd Assembly in the Laikipia County. The committee was tasked with some of the functions like investigation, inquiry and reporting in matters related to its mandate, management of the activities of the assigned departments, to study and review county legislations referred to it, study, access and analyse success of the departments measured to the reports obtained, make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible including the recommendation of proposed legislation.

The committee membership constitutes of seven Members;

1. Hon. Irene Wachuka - Chairperson
2. Hon. Eunice Salaten - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Caroline Kihika - Member
4. Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki - Member
5. Hon. Stephen Ndirtu - Member
6. Hon. Pauls Leshuel - Member
7. Hon. Catherine Umija - Member

When we were preparing this report, we had two sittings. Of them, firstly we prepared the vetting schedule and on another we prepared a meeting where each nominee appeared and vetted according to the Public Appointments Act, 2017.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Members of this committee for their input and valuable contribution during the vetting exercise. The committee also takes this

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opportunity to thank the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly for supporting and giving us accorded support while doing this report.

The appointment process of the members of the Selection Panel nominated and tasked to recruit the Secretary of the Laikipia County Public Service Board was following the Act, 58 A (1 and 2) and County Government Act, No. 17 of 2012 where H.E the Governor had forwarded the names of the nominees to the Clerk of the County Assembly and the names of the nominees via a letter Ref. No. CGL/ADM/CA/Vol. 261 dated on 1st August, 202, for vetting and approval by the County Assembly, for appointment as members of the said panel. The list constituted of the following;

1. Dr. Naomi Watetu Mbacho.
2. Ms. Minnie Wairimu Kinyanjui.
3. Mr. Robert Kaburia Miano.
4. Ms. Anne Naitiku Kiloku.
5. Mr. Joseph Mwangi

There was a notification to the public that was done pursuant to the Section 6(2) of the public appointments of 2017. On Thursday, 31st, August, 2023, the Clerk of the Assembly placed an advert on the print paper inviting the public to submit memorandum by the way of written statements on oath (sworn affidavit) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees.

The submissions were received by Wednesday, 6th September, 2023. Pursuant to article 196 of the Constitution on public appointments, and Standing Order 46 (3), the general public was also notified in the print media by the Clerk of the County Assembly on 31st August, 2023 on the intention of the committee to conduct the vetting and approval hearings of the nominees on 7th September.

The committee did not receive any memorandum submission contesting the suitability of the nominees. During the approval hearings, the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee held a sitting on Wednesday, 30th August, 2023 to deliberate on the approval hearings and agreed to do the following; to have a public notice to receive the documents of the nominees and to undertake the vetting of the nominees, and also to conduct the vetting processes while examining the nominees against the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya.

During the vetting, we vetted all the nominees and I would love to say that we interviewed these nominees that were selected by the Governor and they are pretty qualified and able to do the task that is ahead of them. We looked at their professional qualifications, educational background, experiences in different sectors which they are going to be representing in the committee, and I would love to state that this will be an able panel which is capable of doing what is supposed to be done. I hope that the House will approve this panel because they are very competent.

Committee Observations

The committee observed the following:

1. The nominees have satisfied the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 on leadership and integrity.

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2. All the nominees' academic qualifications and experience is impressive in compliance with Section 7 (8) of the Public Appointments County Assemblies Act, 2017.
3. The nominees have never been charged in any court of law. The nominees have never been adversely mentioned in any investigatory report of the County Assembly or any other commission of inquiry.
4. The nominees exhibited impressive knowledge on topical issues touching on the Laikipia County Public Service Board and have the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience.
5. The composition of the selection panel considered gender balance, inclusion of youth and marginalized groups.

Committee Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Section 58 (1) of the County Governments (amended) Act of 2020, and Standing Order 195(5)(F), the committee recommends that this House approves the nomination of the five members appointed by H.E the Governor to the selection panel tasked with recruitment of the secretary of the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

I would love to invite Hon. Shuel to second. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I stand to second the motion, and I want to thank the Mover of the motion for giving us a comprehensive report from the committee, having analysed the observations and requirements of the law and academic qualifications of the selection committee. I am privileged to be in that committee and we have examined the panel. Firstly, that committee meets the requirements of the regional balance and diversity according to the law. We also realized that the committee members have diverse knowledge and skills. We have people with knowledge of law, others are knowledgeable in administration and others have dealt with community issues on the ground.

So, we noticed that these committee members are suitable for that position. As you know, they are the people who will sit to interview the secretary of the County Public Service Board. That position is very critical, we need people who are very competent and who will give us a very suitable person. We are convinced as a committee that the composition of the selection panel will give us a very competent person for that position. I can confirm and would like to urge Members to support and approve the names because they are suitable for that position, and we are hopeful that at the end of the day they will give us a very competent secretary who will help this country to go forward. I do not want to take time because the Mover has already analysed and given us all the details on the report. As a committee we interrogated all of them and realized that those people are competent and they will do a better job for this county. I second. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker: I now open the floor for debate.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this report on the nominees to the appointment of the Secretariat for County Public Service Board. Being a Member of the committee, I was privileged to be in the discussion on vetting of the members. We had a very wonderful and good meeting in this Assembly and we had a very competitive interview in this Assembly in the morning.

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The person who came up with these names did a thorough job because we have professionals in this panel. The education background that they have, the expertise and the experience that they have is the kind of the experience that we need in this county and in this government so that we can come up with a secretary to the Board who is very qualified and who can be able to deliver for the board.

We had one of the members of the panel who is a very competitive lawyer in this county and in this town Mr. Joseph Mwangi. We also had a lady who has Masters in Education, we had another person who is a teacher and now he is a unionist in the teaching fraternity who stand for the teachers of this county. Still, we had an accountant who is a lady and these are the kind of people we need as panelist so that they can be able to identify a very good person who is qualified in all fields because being in the board is not just a matter of picking a person and bringing him or her in the Assembly to be passed by the Assembly.

We need a very good person and experienced who is skilled on administration, on accounts, on finance and person who can be relied on. A person who is transparent and can be accountable to this county. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Members of this House to rise up and support this report so that we can be able to progress because without a secretariat to the board, we cannot be able to employ any person in this county.

Each and every person who is being employed must pass through the board and they must be approved by the board so that we can have a good working force in this county. I urge the Members to support this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: I will now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just excuse me because my colleague here is making jokes but I will not share with the House. I thank the House for supporting this report. I remember that this is just a selection committee that will sit down to nominate a secretary who is going to be working in the Public Service Board.

Currently, the Public Service Board cannot do its mandate until it is wholly constituted as per the Constitution and the County Government Act. We are hopeful that by the end of this session the House will agree to support it so that we can move forward. Once the Public Service Board is constituted, then we can go forward. The Public Service Board is a mandate required by law.

I want to thank everybody for coming up and showing up and for allowing us to have this opportunity. Please give these members the opportunity to work. They are competent people and they are professionals. The committee has been constituted well and I want to thank the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Honourable Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, this Assembly approves the application of Standing Order No. 29(3) to allow it adjourn its sittings from Friday 8th September, 2023 to Monday 18th September, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, as I have read, we need to adjourn this House for a week so that the Members could be able to move out on the office to go and interact with the electorates of this county. For the elected Members, it is not only the business of the House they conduct but also

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the business of our electorates on the ground by inspecting the projects as one of our roles in this Assembly is oversight.

Therefore, as we break for one week we also need to go and interact with our families. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this is time for back to school because our children are going back to school. Therefore, we need to sit down and deliberate with our families and interact with them. This is also the time when the Members go and refresh a bit after conducting the business of the House after a long period of time. As we go out, I would urge all the Members to go and make Laikipia great wherever you shall be. Thank you, and I call upon Hon. Leshuel to second.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second. It is clear that our role is oversight and representation. So as much as we have got a lot to do in this House, we still have a lot to do outside there. We want to go and oversight all the projects which we have done so that when we will be bringing the report in this House, we will be very sure and also conversant that what we are bringing here is what is happening on the ground.

A part from that, we also need to work with our people on the ground who have made us to be here so that we can identify their problems and needs, so that while we will be debating here, we shall be debating exactly what is their concern. So that we do not just come here as an island and discuss issues on our own. We need to be on the ground to understand their needs.

At The end of the day, we shall be having serious motions discussing about our people on the ground about water, roads, health, bursary and other things. So, I support that we need to go for one week recess so that we can have a capacity building as well. We do not necessarily need to go on the ground for a week. We can also go for education somewhere else especially those ones who want to have a degree or PHD in the future, so that we can vie for a presidential position in 2027.

Personally, I am aiming for a bigger position like the Deputy Governor of this county or an administrator because I have got the capacity. I have also done a part of law and therefore whenever you have got a problem, you can see me in my office so that we can address some of the issues and therefore we have got a lot to do in general. We stand to support his motion that we go for a week.

Mr. Speaker, there are also the people from the West like *Mama yao* and the rest have been travelling for long distances to come here to carry out their mandate. They stay here for a week without even seeing their children.

So, when we break for a week, they can stay with their children because at the end of the day this is a term contract. It would look awkward if you stayed for five years outside and when you return home you start pretending that you are a *mzee nyumbani.* We have got also our own business that we need to go and check how they are progressing. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 19th September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.00 p.m.

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