REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 16th October, 2024

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.00 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS TO THE CPSB

Speaker: Hon. Stephen? Before you continue, we could be having a bit of a hitch on the internet. The office is doing everything possible. If it shall not have reflected on your gadgets in the next two minutes, hardcopies are also being prepared. Thank you. Welcome, Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Wachuka and the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee, I beg to move the following motion;

> THAT, taking into consideration the findings of the Sectoral Committee on Labour Social Welfare and Community Services, on the approval hearing of nominees for appointment to the Laikipia County Public Service Board and pursuant to the provisions of Section 58 of the County Governments Act, and sections 4 and 9 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, this Assembly approves the nomination of the following to the County Public Service Board;
>
> 1. Mr. Macharia Gakiri
> 2. Mr. Jackson Kimutai Chumo
> 3. Mr. Jackson Ekai Lopkei
> 4. Dr. Naomi Watetu Mbacho
> 5. Ms. Veronica Wangui Gakenga

Hon. Speaker, as you had said earlier, we have the report. The hardcopies are here on the table and I beg the Hon. Members to go with me page by page so that we can analyse this report which is before this House and by the end of it approve the said nominees.

PREFACE

On 1st October, 2024, the Speaker informed the House that in accordance to section 58A (1) of the County Governments (Amendment)Act 2020, the Governor had nominated and appointed members to the positions of Chairperson and Members to the Laikipia County Public Service Board. The names were read out and committed to the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee to undertake the vetting process.

A Public notice was placed in the Daily Nation Newspaper and the Star Newspaper on Thursday, 3rd October, 2024 in which the nominees and the public were requested to participate

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in the process through provision of documents and memoranda by Wednesday 9th October, 2024. The vetting activity took place on 14th October, 2024. The report contains the membership of the committee, mandate, questions from the committee members and answers from the nominees, observations and recommendations.

Hon. Speaker, the next page contains the table of contents. Members have the report, so they can go through it. The next page contains the introduction, and it is important that I read it.

INTRODUCTION

Establishment of the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee

The Sectoral Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Service was constituted by the House on 26th October, 2022 during the First Session of the Third Assembly in Laikipia County. The Committee is established pursuant to Standing Order 191 and the functions shall be to-

i. Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

ii. Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and effectiveness of the implementation;

iii. Study and review all County legislation referred to it;

iv. Study, assess and analyse the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;

v. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the Assembly;

vi. To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 184(Committee on Appointment); and

vii. Make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

The mandate of the committee is also written there and Members can read for themselves. I know that everybody understands the mandate of this committee and others. The next section is the committee membership, and it is very important for Members to know the Members of this committee.

Committee Membership

The Committee as currently constituted, comprises of the following members: Hon. Irene Wachuka who is the chairperson of this committee. She is able and has a vision and has helped this committee to reach where it is now. There is also Hon. Eunice Salaten Moile who is also an active member of this committee as well as its vice-chair. There is also Catherine Umija who is a very active member of this committee. Another member of the committee is Hon. Kihika. She is a very active and independent Member who makes decisions according to what she thinks is good for Laikipians. Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki is also a member of the committee. He is very brave and makes decisions wisely.

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Myself, who is now moving the motion, I am also a member of the committee. Everyone knows me very well, what I can do or cannot do. There is also Hon. Shuel who is seated next to me. He is a very useful member of the committee who makes very wise decisions. He is the one who leads us in every activity of the committee, and we are very proud to have him in this committee. When we hold meetings, we feel secure when we see Hon. Shuel in the room.

Committee Meetings

The Committee held two Sittings; one to prepare for the vetting schedule and the other in which the nominees appeared and were each vetted in accordance with the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 for appointment as the Chairperson and Members of the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

From there, there is the background. It is very important to go through this page, the vetting process.

Background

Vetting Process

The Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Community Service is a Sectoral Committee established under Standing Order No. 191(5)(f) with the mandate to consider for approval by the House, appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Laikipia County Public Service Board as stipulated in Section 58A (7) of the County Governments (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2020.

Section 4 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 stipulates that an Appointment under the Constitution or any other law for which the approval of a County Assembly is required shall not be made unless the Appointment is approved by the relevant County Assembly in accordance with this Act.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we have this motion on the floor of the House for consideration, and we are requesting the Members to consider this nominee and finally approve them.

It is important to note that Section 10(1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 provides *that, where the nomination of a candidate is rejected by a County Assembly, the appointing authority shall submit to the County Assembly the name of another candidate, and the procedure for approval specified in this Act shall apply accordingly.*

Hon. Speaker, that is according to Section 10(1). In this case, we are not rejecting but approving, so we are not going to use that section in this case, and I am requesting Members to vote for these nominees so that we do not go in that direction.

Appointment process of the members nominated to the positions of Chairperson and Members of the Laikipia County Public Service Board

Pursuant to Section 58A [7] of the County Government Act [No.11 of 2012] Section 58A (1), H.E. the Governor, forwarded to the Clerk of the County Assembly, the names of the following nominees vide a letter (Reference Number: CGL/GVN/*G2/24/....,* dated …. October, 2024 for vetting and approval by the County Assembly for Appointment as Chairperson and members of the Laikipia County Service Board. The list comprises of;

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S/No.	NAME	CAPACITY
1.	Mr. Macharia Gakiri	Chairperson
2.	Ms. Veronicah Wangui Gakenga	Member
3.	Dr. Noami Watetu Mbacho	Member
4.	Mr. Jackson Kimutai Chumo	Member
5.	Mr. Jackson Ekai Lopkei	Member

On 1st October, 2024, the Hon. Speaker through a Chair's Communication *(Annexure i*) informed the House that the Clerk of the County Assembly had received the details of the above nominees and directed that the names and Curriculum Vitae of the said nominees be referred to the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee for vetting and reporting to the House.

Hon. Speaker, there was a notification to the public, and Members can see on page 5 that Members were notified.

Notification to the Public

Section 6(2) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 provides that, "An appointing authority shall, in issuing a notice under subsection (1), notify the members of the public on the proposed nomination through such media and platforms established under Section 91 of the County Governments Act as it considers appropriate".

On Thursday 3rd October 2024, (Annexure ii) the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statement or oath (sworn affidavit) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees. The submissions were to be received by Wednesday, 9th October, 2024.

Submission of the Memoranda

Pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee invited submissions from the public on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees for Appointment as members of the selection panel tasked with the recruitment of the Chairperson and Members of the Laikipia County Public Service Board. The Committee received one sworn affidavit endorsing Mr. Macharia Gakiri.

That is the only memorandum that was submitted to the committee. On the same page Members can see the issues for consideration during the approval hearing. Allow me now to go to the nominees. Before that, however, there was the approval hearings of the nominees.

APPROVAL HEARINGS OF THE NOMINEES

The Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee deliberated on the approval hearings and agreed on the following (and this is very important):

i. To have the public notice (contents in the table below) in the papers on 3rd October, 2024;

ii. To receive the documents from the nominees and memoranda from the public by 9th October, 2024.

iii. To undertake vetting of the nominees on Monday 14th October 2024.

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iv. To conduct the vetting process while examining the nominees against the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, the County Government (Amendment) Act, 2020 and the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.

1. **MR. MACHARIA GAKIRI – CHAIRPERSON**

The nominee appeared before the Committee on Monday, 14th October, 2024 and was informed by the Labor, Social Welfare and Community Services Chairperson that, pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee had invited submissions from the public on his suitability or otherwise for appointment as the Chairperson, Laikipia County Public Service Board.

By the deadline of 9th October, 2024, the Committee had not received one sworn affidavit endorsing his appointment. The nominee was then orally vetted under oath and responded to questions during the vetting as follows:

Hon. Members, on page five you can confirm that we did a vetting and there was that Self-introduction and Educational Background. The nominee stated that;

- He was born in 1961 and resides in Kinamba, Ngarua. That tells us that he comes from this County of Laikipia.
- He is currently pursuing a post Graduate Diploma from Mount Kenya University; He has a Sustainable Finance Certificate from UNEP Finance Institute-2016; Certificate in Leadership Management Skills from Capacity Building Institute-2008; BSC in Agri-Business from Kenya Methodist University from 2001-2005; Certificate in Environmental Health Science (Meat Hygiene) at Meat Training-1995.

  Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Members can confirm that he is a father and when given that position, he will consider the people of Laikipia because he has a fatherly heart.

  On Professional Background he has worked at:

- County Government of Laikipia as the Chairperson in the Laikipia County Revenue Board from 2003- 2024
- County Government of Laikipia as Chairperson for County Pending Bill Committee from 2022-2023
- He started working at Equity Bank Limited as a busness relationship manager and promoted to a Senior Relationship Manager from 2008-2021 a position he worked for 13 years in diifferent parts of the country.

Hon. Speaker, Interest in the acknowledgement relating to the specific position. The members can go through that page and confirm that we vetted the nominee Mr. Gakiri and answered all the questions that he was asked by the Members regarding to that position. According to me, he is qualified and fit for the position.

It is my pleasure to request the House to approve the nominee so that we can have a Chairperson of County Public Service Board. It is good to note that without the board, Laikipia will not move forward well. We also need to employ people where this board is the one mandated by the constitution and the Act to employ people to work in the Laikipia County Government.

2. MR. JACKSON KIMUTAI CHUMO - MEMBER

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The nominee appeared before the Committee on Monday, 14th October, 2024 and was informed by the Chairperson that, pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee had invited submissions from the public on his suitability or otherwise for appointment as a member of the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

However, by the deadline date of 09th October, 2024 the Committee had not received any submission or memorandum from the public contesting his suitability. The nominee was then orally vetted under oath and responded to questions during the vetting as follows:

Self-introduction and Educational Background. The nominee stated that;

- He was born on 7th July 1982 and resides in Rumuruti. According to the report Jackson Chumo is a resident of Rumuruti. We asked him whether he knows the area MCA and he told the vetting panel that the MCA is John Gichuki Maina aka Jowali. That tells us he is a Laikipian.
- He is pursuing a PHD in Education Management from Laikipia University from 8th August 2024 to date.
- Holds a Master's Degree in Education Management from Laikipia University from 8th September 2016 to 29th July 2022; Degree in B.Ed Arts (English and Literature) from the Laikipia University from 04th November 2014 to 28th October 2016 with a Second Class Upper Division; Diploma in Education Arts/ English and Literature with Credit from Laikipia University from 16th April 2012 to 31st October 2014; Certificate of Merit in Basic Computer Applications from Obex Comp Center on 7th October 2015; Prison staff training College Certificate on 9th May 2008.

Professional Background

The nominee stated that his employment record includes;

- TSC as a Secondary School Teacher at Bishop Louis Ngare- Naro Secondary School from 30th August 2022 to date.
- Head Teacher at a Primary School in Rumuruti G.K Prisons from 03rd November, 2014 to 7th February, 2022. Hon. Speaker, on that page the Members can see that the Committee vetted the nominee and we were satisfied that he is equal and suitable to hold that position in the board.

3. MR JACKSON EKAI LOPKEI- MEMBER

The nominee appeared before the Committee on Monday 14th October, 2024 and was informed by the Chairperson that, pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee had invited submissions from the public on his suitability or otherwise for appointment as a member of the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

However, by the deadline date of 9th October, 2024 the Committee had not received any submission or memorandum from the public contesting his suitability. The nominee was then orally vetted under oath and responded to questions during the vetting as follows:

Self-introduction and Educational Background. The nominee stated that;

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- He was born on 12th June 1985 and lives in Rumuruti. Hon. Speasker, it is good to note that upto now we have two Members from Rumuruti. Rumuruti is also the headquater of this County.
- He has a Degree in Community Development from Laikipia University from January 2015 to December 2018; Diploma in Community Health and Development from Mengai Medical Training School from September 2007 to 2010; Cerificate of HIV/AIDS testing & counselling from NASCOP for 3 months in 2009.

Hon. Speaker, being born in 1985 he is a Gen Z. the Governor has considered the Gen Z in this Board. Gen Z should be happy and we expect that he will use that opportunity to employ Gen Z in this County. I am also a Gen Z born in 1980. Those people who demonstrated outside were of my age.

Professional Background

- He has worked as a Medical Social Worker 1 at the Laikipia County Government.
- Community Health Extension Officer at the National Government.
- VCT Counselling Community Health African Trust.

4. DR. NAOMI WATETU MBACHO – MEMBER

Dr. Naomi Watetu appeared before the Committee on Monday, 14th October, 2024 and was informed by the Chairperson that, pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee invited submissions from the public on her suitability or otherwise for appointment as a member of the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

However, by the deadline date of 9th October, 2024 the Committee had not received any submission or memorandum from the public contesting her suitability. The nominee was then orally vetted under oath by the Committee and responded to questions during the vetting as follows: -

Self-introduction and Educational Background. The nominee stated that;

- She was born in 1979 and a resident of Ngobit.
- Her education background entails: - PHD in Education Science from Laikipia University from 2014 to 2017; Masters of Education Science from Egerton University from 2009 to 2013; Bachelor of Education Science from Kenyatta University from 1998 to 2001.

Professional Background

- She currently works at Murang'a University of Technology from 1st September to date, as a Lecturer from 2021, as a Coordinator Career Services from 2022 to 2023, and Coordinate Teaching Practice from 2023 to date.
- Laikipia County Government as the Chairperson, Selection Panel tasked to select the Secretary to the Laikipia County Public Service Board.
- Worked under Teacher's Service Commission:
  - Naigera Secondary School as a Deputy Principal (2021)

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- Ngobit Secondary School as a Maths/ Chemistry Teacher, and Chair Mathematics Department (2020- 2021)
- Wiyumiririe Secondary School as a Teacher, HOD Science, Guidance and Counselling (2008 to 2018)
- Kirogo Secondary School as a Teacher, Head of Mathematics Department (2002-2007)

Hon. Speaker, on Human Resource the Members can go through that part. Also on Public Service, Leadership and Teamwork. The Members can also confirm that she is suitable to hold that position since she is qualified and a person on integrity. He has taught Universities as a Lecturer and held many positions during her work. She resides from Ngobit and that tells you she lives in Laikipia and suitable to hold that position.

5. MS. VERONICA WANGUI GAKENGA- MEMBER

Dr. Naomi comes from Ngobit and that tells you that she is a Laikipian and therefore suitable to hold that position.

Hon. Speaker, Ms. Veronica Wangui Gakenga appeared before the Committee on Monday, 14th October, 2024 and was informed by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Chairperson that, pursuant to Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee invited submissions from the public on her suitability or otherwise for appointment as a member of the Laikipia County Public Service Board. However, by 9th October, 2024 the Committee had not received any submission or memorandum from the public contesting her suitability.

The nominee was then orally vetted under oath by the committee and responded to questions during the vetting as follows: -

Self-introduction and Educational Background

- The nominee stated that;
- She was born on 6th June 1971 and is a Resident of Matanya, Tigithi.
- Her academic qualifications entail Masters in Project Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi, enrolled in 2013 and still in progress; Bachelor of Arts in Social Work with a 2nd Class Upper Division at the University of Nairobi in 1995.

Professional Background

- SIFA Fashions as a Proprietor-New Business
- County Government of Laikipia from September 2014 to September 2017, as the Chief Officer Education and ICT, Culture, Sport, Youth, Women,Gender and Social Services; Chief Officer in the County Administration and Public Service Management.
- World Vision Kenya from November 2004 to August 2014.
- Child Fund from September 1996 to October 2004.

There were questions asked by the committee and the Members can go through that page and find that Gakenga answered all the questions and is fit to hold that position.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS

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1. The Committee having considered the nominees' Curriculum Vitaes and heard their oral submissions during the vetting exercise/interview, made the following observations: -
2. The nominees have satisfied the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 on leadership and integrity. That means that the nominees are suitable to hold those positions. It is the high time we approve these nominees since they have satisfied the chapter six requirement.
3. All the nominees' academic credentials, and experience are impressive and in compliance with Section 7(8) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.
4. The nominees have never been charged in a Court of Law. So, they are not criminals. I am requesting the House to approve the nominees since they are clean white. The nominees have never been adversely mentioned in any investigatory report of County Assembly or any Commission of Inquiry.
5. The nominees exhibited impressive knowledge of topical issues touching on the Laikipia County Public Service Board and they have the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience.
6. The committee observed that the composition of the selection panel considered gender balance, inclusion of youth. Earlier I had said that we have a gen-zi. So the panel have considered the youth and the marginalised groups. It is good to note that the panel has also considered the PWD in this board. I am requesting the House to approve these nominees so that they can start working immediately.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank all Members of this Committee for their input and valuable contributions during the vetting exercise. The Committee also takes this opportunity to thank the Offices of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded during the vetting exercise.

Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to Section 58A (1) of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020 and Standing Order No. 191 (5) (f), the committee recommends that this House Approves the nomination of the 5 members, appointed by H.E the Governor to the positions of the Chairperson and Members to the Laikipia County Public Service Board.

Hon. Speaker, the report was signed and the Members can see on page 20 and we are satisfied that the nominees are equal to the task. I am requesting the Members to support this report so that we can have the board in place and the County of Laikipia will move on. The constitution is very clear that all the sovereign powers belong to the people and in this case, we requested submission from the public and they were satisfied by the nominees. It is our time to approve the report so that the board will be in place so that we can be able to employ our people in this county.

Hon. Speaker, if you can remember, there were demonstrations everywhere in this country and the demonstrators had many issues and on e of them was lack of employment. If we are not going to approve this board, we will be denying the people of Laikipia an opportunity to be employed. We have got youth that we represent in this Assembly, men and women without jobs.

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So, I am requesting this House to consider this report and approve. Therefore, it is now my pleasure to call upon one Hon. Salim Edung from Segera to support this motion because he means well to the people of Laikipia and I know that he is going to support this motion and finally the House is going to approve. Thank you.

Hon. Salim Edung: I second the report.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. Before I support, I wish to acknowledge and commend the Labour Committee that sat down and vetted the five nominees that we have before us. They have done their interrogations and you can see the capture of the same in the report. Having said that, I want to state categorically that this is the moment for Laikipia County.

This means, I am an active member of the social media and I am in the age bracket where a lot of my agemates are looking for employment as career starters and beginners in different paths of profession. I therefore want to tell the youth of this county that this is the moment. I have had a conversation with several through social media sites and whenever they ask for these job opportunities, I have never been shy to tell them that there is a process where we vet people to get to a board that regulates profession among other things in career development. That is why I say that today is the moment.

Hon. Speaker, the placement of this board and its enshrinement in the law, presents a very important and vital organ. An organ that standardizes the justice of labour and places people in their different areas of profession. Earlier last year, there happened to be a skill analysis across all departments in the County Government of Laikipia. The report has been seen by some if these Members and some departments are short of people to serve.

Others who are in the existing departments would need whatever is needed to be done in the progression of where they work. Some need to promoted, some empowered and others need to be employed. These are all functions of the board and that is why I am supporting the adoption of the report.

Hon. Speaker, having said that, I have taken the trouble as a legislator and oversighter and somebody who is directly affected by the matter to understand the professional backgrounds and also other aspects of social life of these nominees. Without wasting much time, I would like to comment on different individuals here.

Mr. Macharia Gakiri is a man well known to me and not only to me, but for the people who reside in Kinamba, Olmoran and Marmanet. I have read through the report although it came late and I would want to state two issues that are of importance to this board. Macharia Gakiri has risen progressively through the career ladder from a junior officer to a person who is senior in the department which they were serving.

Another important aspect is the experience with which this person has served both in the public and private sector. He brings with him a well of skills and experience that are vitally needed in this board. I have interacted with him and I have understood his demeanor and it is very important to have such people in such important offices especially in the context that we are in.

Secondly, I have seen Veronica Wangui Gakenga and what she is capable of. She also brings a wealth of experience. Being from the other gender, we have enough diversity to look at the matters that will be before that board. I have also seen Dr. Naomi Watetu Mbacho and I

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have appreciated the rich background of her education and practise in the society. I have also seen Mr. Jackson Kimutai Chumo and it has been long overdue. These were my thoughts as I was contemplating about this board.

We needed a teacher in this board and also somebody who is in the vocational training centre and the tertiary institution for this one reason. Teachers are the ones who have prepared the people who are seeking for employment and other issues. Additionally, if we have somebody who is from the tertiary institutions, we have the advantage of them understanding the contemporary skills that are needed for the employment of the same. That is why we have Jackson Ekai and I can see the background that is there.

Hon. Speaker, we have got people who are in the education sector in this board. We have people who have been in the banking sector and other social services that are very important. I understand that all those people who have been working in the social services sectors, they carry dearly in their hearts the course of humanity and they are determinants of the success of our civilizations today.

Hon. Speaker, as I digress, I want to say that these nominees have to understand one thing for sure, that they have been selected out of other professionals and people who are capable. What we expect as a government and as an Assembly is one. Let them have the appointing power to have the best in all departments. If you have read through history, you will understand that governments since time immemorial, they surround themselves with the best. It is only lately that we are having poor perception about government employees. I call upon this board that will be approved in this House to ensure that they will give us the best so that our people will have the best services.

Additionally, I have heard about the era that has been stated by Hon. Stephen Ndiritu, that we have youthful people in this board. You can never be further from the truth. We do not have youth in this board. You can see their ages and the capture of their periods. I want to state as a representative of very many jobless youths in this county, that I would want to ask the board to please ensure that the virtue of justice has been restored. Even in ancient times in the medieval history, the goddess of justice is blind so that they don't see people and their attributes.

It is disheartening and I want to state that some of the youths who are learned are in villages. Some do not get an opportunity because they do not have a toll cousin or their person is not in Government or they are not well connected. This breaks the virtue of justice and it dashes the hope of a lot of kids who will wake up in the morning, commit all their time to read so that they can get professional competence. I would like to ask the board that let them restore the value of justice. Let meritocracy prevail.

We have seen people without documents holding offices that are so critical while others that are learned and qualified have no place to practice their professionalism. As I end, I would like to state that there is one thing that is dearly lacking in the current government. The aspect of mentoring careers and profession you will have a lot of people who are not graduating in today's life. There is no mentorship. No one holds their hands so that they start their work. I'd wish to remember memories I wish to share with this Assembly. That I didn't graduate so much in the past.

I did graduate in 2016 and I have fresh memories in campus of how people strain, sleeping hungry and speaking against the IGG (Integrative Genetics and Genomics) of university because that is the clique I was. It would be so disheartening that such people would come to the employment and the labour market only to be subjected to issues of nepotism and

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this menace of connections. Therefore, I want to state that as I urge all Members to approve and adopt the report by the Labour Committee, I'd want to state that these nominees are not just ordinary people picked by the Governor due to other issues.

I want them to commit to the future of the people of Laikipia especially the youthful generation who are going to get justice in the labour market and the employment industry. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I'd wish to urge all Members in this House that we support the adoption of this report so that other subsequent events will follow. That is this, this House is going to sit down and analyze the skills gap analysis tests and will give this County Government the best people to serve our people. Thank you, Hon. Speaker I support.

Hon. Catherine Nyokabi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity to echo my words on this great motion that has been tabled in this House. First and foremost, I want to thank our Almighty God for giving us the protection and peace and unity that he has given unto us. I want to take this chance to thank our Excellency the Governor for nominating one of the nominees from my great Ngobit Ward.

Also, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and also the labour committee for burning their midnight oil for coming up with this suitable and comprehensive report that is before us. Secondly, I want to congratulate the five nominees who have been brought in this House. I know they are equal to task. I know they are going to deliver. I know they are full of knowledge.

They are going to make sure that our County will be great and they are going to move our County where we are today to another level because I know they are well educated as we have seen from the report. Finally, I want to call upon my fellow colleagues to maintain the same high spirit until we vote yes, this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Samuel Gatati: Hon. Speaker I am standing in support of the nominees and also to give thanks to the labour committee. Hon. Speaker, as you know in Kenya, we are having a very important agenda that is happening in our television. I want to be Simon of Cyrene from the bible when Jesus was carrying the cross, there was somebody who was called Simon who helped Jesus to carry the cross. So as our son Hon. Rigathi Gachagua is been vindicated, I want to help him and go offer my prayers and my fasting. So, I don't want to take much of your time and I am in support of the motion.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. I know when I click this microphone, a number of people get worried but I want to stand in support of this report. There comes at a time when individual interests or personal interest are less important than the County affairs. I have no personal difference with the nominees, this is politics and when we play politics, *wengine wasiweke kwa roho, ekeni kwa lungs.* I can see some Members are happy and I stand well in support of the nominees.

They have a bigger role ahead of them and we expect the best from them. You see sometimes when we are looking for these opportunities, we are angels and we are very good but the moment you are given these positions their colors turn. We are now saying they are the best and we hope to be the best and we hope the way they represented themselves during the vetting, they can at least maintain that one even if it is for some two or three years. They would have helped the people of Laikipia.

Therefore, without saying a lot of things, I stand to support the nominees. I want to congratulate them for having achieved this and also thank His Excellency for sending their names for approval.

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Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to support the motion and the nominees and I also want to congratulate. It is not common off late. As the chair of the committees, I am very proud of the labour committee they have been very active. Every now and then they have been doing business there and they have been delivering timely. As my friend here Hon. Stephen Ndiritu was making a joke about me, I can tell you the five nominees are vital. Especially me, I come from a Cosmopolitan ward the only thing that my people rely on is employment.

It would be very unfair if I don't support this. I know none of the nominees but one thing I know is they are all Kenyans. They are all Laikipians and they are friends. I happen to know that today we have done justice that we have one PWD, the one by Jackson Kimutai Chumo and is also a teacher. Hon. Joseph Gitahi said that we need more teachers. I once went to train as a teacher but the wages were meager and I am learning, I want to go back to school again.

I want to be more eloquent especially when speaking to my people I want to be more eloquent and enlightened so I will make him my friend. Let us pass this thing now that we have this good exposure in this House. Today, as a man of God I can tell you that there will be peace, there is not going to be a commotion here. We are going to pass this thing and give our people the opportunity to be employed. The only thing I can pray is people like me are very innocent and very honest.

We have nothing against or foe in this. Let the motion be fair just as God has favored them to have this opportunity. I was reading this is a prestigious opportunity. They are even more paid than us. They are enjoying more than us who are working for the people. It is only fair that we do justice to people. Let them employ justice. I urge this House for today, let us forget our differences. It is not a must. I don't have a nominee in this from Nanyuki Ward. I don't have a nominee from Thingithu Ward because we are twins.

We must join in this and when time comes to celebrate, they are going to celebrate also because I can tell you for free there is no time that we are going to have employment for everyone but whoever has one, let us celebrate it. Even us, we're employed by people; we ran against many people but God's mercies came through for us. Let us celebrate them, let us support them and let us be one united.

If you don't agree with this, then I can say as a prophet we are all doomed. Let us help them to carry their cross today and leave our burden. Let them work not only for the executive but let them work for our Laikipians. I hope this House approves this without any alterations in their heart. Let them do that. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At first, I thank the Governor for picking these nominees for this position. I also thank the labour committee for the same. It is on record when we are approving a board without any member from Marmanet. It is on record all other positions whenever they are brought in this House, there must be a member from Marmanet. It had even portrayed as though the government is for Marmanet but in this one, none is from Marmanet and who I am with conversant is Bwana Kimutai Chuma; he is person I know.

I have also known Macharia Gakiri and yesterday I spent much of the time in the evening going through the report. I was very happy because as I was going through the report, I came to learn that Gakiri has a certificate in Environmental Health Science, Meat Hygiene and that is my profession. As you know, I am a butcher by profession and having such a

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certificate is a person who is conversant with that kind of work. Following up on what we are going through as a County, this board is very important to the County.

As we speak, by 31st October, most of the employees who have been engaged by the County under contract, their contracts are ending. Without this board, there will be nobody who will be able to maybe employ those who ae suitable to continue and the new ones to be recruited. Without this board, we might be holding this County at ransom. Being a Member of this House and having had an experience, we need to see this County going on. I also appreciate even without having somebody from my ward all other areas require to be considered as they have done today.

I have seen one board member from Tigithi Madam Gakenga. I have seen even the board we have a doctor. With a board comprising of someone with a doctorate. That board is well constituted and I happy because as I was going through, I came to learn the person with the title doctor that is Naomi Wateto Mbacho was once a deputy head teacher in my ward. Even with that, I don't need to be persuaded to support. If one of the board members has worked in Marmanet, even her brand has got some part of Marmanet.

I wholly support and I am sure even as the other Members contribute, I persuade them we pass the board as it is. All the members because I feel that there is none who I can attest or speak that I have an issue with or I have a concern from anybody I have gotten a report that he is not worthy. I am also happy because in the previous board, we had a true person and even this one we have another true person. You know my neighbor here is also a true person and that constitutes of the Members whereby even the minority is represented. I wholly support the report.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I wish to complain that the seat I am using is giving me a hard task while trying to wake up. I am hoping that those who manage will look into this seat. God granted us more Hon. Members and there is need for comfort in where we sit. Mr. Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Labour Committee for the articulate report they have brought. I am supporting this report because as we all know; it should be recorded that this is the first board to be recruited.

The outgoing board, is going successfully. I remember in the 2013 to 2017 Board, when the 2017-2022 government took place, the former board was chased away. This has gone successfully. I am assuming that the incoming board from the report will go for six years' term and they will do their best in the HR and Labour. Mr. Speaker, allow me because this is my first opportunity to welcome our two new Hon. Members in this House Hon. Kaniaru and Hon. Veronica Ikunyua to this Honourable Assembly.

During 2013-2017, we had a representation of the people with Disability. Currently, we are not calling them people with disability but people born of differently. I welcome them and as Hon. Kanyutu has quoted here, I was worried. Hon. Kaniaru is new and the newly recruited board does not represent Members with Disability. I was about to ask him what brought him here. This is his first task but I thank H.E the Governor that out of that, he had a Member who represented the Disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Governor and the team that was brought here as a panel to recruit the board that was to be taken to Labour Committee to give us the fine-tuned report that we have today. Mr. Speaker, why I am congratulating the Office led by H.E the Governor is because we have a good board that is balanced in terms of tribes. In terms of regions, there is a representation of people from Laikipia North, Laikipia West and Laikipia East. Mr. Speaker, there is also the gender sensitivity and this is what we would want.

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Some of the members might not be aware that we recruited the other day and that is why we have five of them. There is the secretary who is within time limit. We also know that according to the diversity of the tribes in Laikipia, he is also from a different tribe. What I would like to urge this board is that we have only captured few tribes but the diversity of their recruitment when they were being recruited in their noble task. They will balance region as the office of the Governor has done. Mr. Speaker, they should have the gender sensitivity and tribal balancing.

I do not have a representative from the recruited board and I will not complain because I know Macharia Gakiri who we did vet in the Finance Committee to be the Chairperson, Revenue Board. I know according to the targets from the County Government, he has done something to uplift our own source of revenue. I am assuming and hoping the reason he was uplifted is because there was some vibrancy in the Revenue Board. He is equal to task that he has been given.

This is a man I know since I used to buy hides and skin when he was my meat inspector, I know he will rise in the County Government as well as others. I wish them well because I know there are a lot of challenges in this political ground. There is a lot of pressure where I want people from my Ol Moran to be employed. The Governor has people he would like to be employed by the same Board. There was a time I used to Chair the Labour Committee in the year 2017 to 2021, I know there is a lot of struggles when you want your person to be employed.

This revolves between the Chief of Staff, the County Secretary, the County Public Service Board. The former board used to lie to the Public Service Commission which manages the County Public Service Board. Because they know their task, I am hoping they are going to uphold their offices, they are going to balance the wage bill in Laikipia County. We are going to have all that takes to be the first county to have the best board, the best recruitment and the best wage bill where the Kenya as a country is ballooned by the wage bill.

I am hoping that this new board is going to do all that is necessary to uplift the standards. Mr. Speaker, I support and I urge Hon. Members to support. Thank you.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support. One, I know a few of the members in this list. I know Mr. Macharia Gakiri, Kimtai Chumo and Ekai. Mr. Speaker, I have worked with Macharia Gakiri in the Revenue Board and especially recently. In the last two weeks, I have been with him. I know him as a brilliant and intelligent man. I hope that as he comes to the Service Board, he will give more services and advise to the Laikipia County Assembly Service Board.

As you know we are having new recruitment, I thought it was prudent for all the members of the House to support the motion of the vetting report and to make sure that the House is in order. In a long time, we have had the CEO who hails from my ward. For a long time, we have never had recruitment because the CEO did not have the other members to support him. For this order, I urge the Hon. Members to support so that we can move the Laikipia County Government forward and our people shall be employed.

As some Hon. Members said, some members do not come from their ward and I urge all the Hon. Members for the sake of the people of Laikipia to stand with these nominees and support them so that we can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to support the report. The report comes from the Labour Committee where I am also a Member. Mr. Speaker, I am happy that all the Members have seen the importance of this committee. I urge them to support them

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so that we can be able to look for the way forward of this county. What the committee considered, is to see whether those people are reaching the requirements; the integrity, the academic and the balancing of the region, the tribe and the people with disabilities.

We can be able to tell the House that those people are able to answer questions as we asked. Mr. Speaker, I realized that we have knowledgeable people in this county. What is limiting us here is that all of us know their roles that limits the GEN-Z to get jobs because of the ten- and five-years' experience. In future, the government needs to think about this. It is always important to use the knowledge of the people from your area.

One day, one of the Governors in the previous government employed many people but employed people from his area outside the county. One of the Governors challenged him telling him that they are not using the knowledge of the people from your county. It is important for us to use the knowledge of the people that we have. Today, I am happy that all the nominees who are here are from Laikipia. Mr. Speaker, this is a demonstration that we have capable people of all kinds of academic professionals such as doctors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all the Members to support. We are also waiting for another name and when that name comes, we shall continue working together to support another one so that we can complete the entire Board. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion of this report. I urge the Hon. Members to support because it is very important. I concur with the Hon. Member for Githiga Ward that we do not have youth which I am sure in the future, we shall consider the composition of youth. We have one who is thirty-nine years.

Mr. Speaker, that is a good observation and I do not want to take time because the Members have analysed everything. I am sure everybody is ready to support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to first thank the committee for the last few days for making us proud as a House. Hon. Speaker, they are making us trust them more. In this House we know everybody is allowed to speak his mind. I heard someone saying that when I rise, some people get worried. Nobody should be worried because everyone has an independent mind. Whether you support or not, it should not worry anyone.

Hon. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee because one, it has considered gender. It has considered regional balance and it has considered special needs. Hon. Speaker, there is no point of rejecting such people. Secondly Hon. Speaker, the Members who are here are just five yet the wards in Laikipia County are fifteen. There is no way you can sub-divide five to become fifteen. An individual must remain individual. There is no time we will have Members of the County Public Service Board coming from all the wards.

Hon. Speaker, it is also important to respect the professionalism because when you are appointed in such positions, you are supposed to represent the entire county. It does not mean because you are representing people or you are one of the people living with disability you will be there to represent people with disability. You are there to represent the people of Laikipia those with disability and those who do not have disability are your responsibility.

Hon. Speaker, whether you come from certain wards, it is upon you to represent all the fifteen wards. It is only that there was no opportunity for all of us. It is just like the elections were. Hon. Speaker, when you win elections, it does not mean that the others were not qualified. They were qualified but you could not all be Members of the County Assembly. That does not disqualify others. It is only that it was only one person who was needed.

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Hon. Speaker, the five who are here, many had applied. That does not mean that they were not qualified. They were qualified but we only needed five. There is nothing we could have done to make the entire team that had applied to be in the list. Hon. Speaker, I really support the nominees for them to work diligently for the entire county and the people of Laikipia get the best.

Hon. Speaker, it is unfortunate that as a House we all understand that we need our people get employed in this county. Without this board, there is no where we are going. We support these nominees trusting and hoping that when they get to the office, they shall be honest, they will work for the people of Laikipia. They will work without looking at the religion background and ethnicity.

If they are honest, we are going to get the best for all the people from the wards they come from and from the wards they do not come from. Hon. Speaker, I support and trust that all Members will support this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. I now take this opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninasimama kupongeza Waheshimiwa wote kwa kuunga mkono mswada ambao tumeleta katika Bunge hili. Huu ni mswada wa kuwapitisha wanakamati wa bodi ya uajiri. Kwanza, ninashukuru kwa sababu ya vile ninaona nyuso za hawa Waheshimiwa. Wako tayari na wanakusudia kupitisha hii bodi bila maswali yeyote. Bwana Spika, Waheshimiwa waliposoma hii nakala, waliona na kuhakikisha ya kwamba hawa watu wataweza kufanya kazi, wamehitimu na wanaelewa ni nini wanafanya.

Wakati Waheshimiwa walikuwa wanaongea kuhusu hii ripoti, kuna yale mambo ambayo walitaja ambayo ni muhimu na huu ni wakati mwafaka wangu wa kuweza kufafanua mambo mengine hapa. Kama vile Mheshimiwa Gitahi amesema ya kwamba hatuna vijana katika hii bodi, ninamhakikishia ya kwamba tuko na kijana wa miaka thelathini na tisa. Huyo ni kijana na ninajua kwamba kuwa kijana si mwili tu na si miaka. Kuwa kijana ni kuwa na akili ambayo inafanya kazi kwa upesi na kuangalia siku za usoni.

Bwana Spika, ningetaka kumpongeza Mheshimiwa Lempaira kwa sababu amesema ya kwamba akisimama wengine wanaogopa. Mheshimiwa Lempaira, hatukuogopa na tulijua kwamba wewe ni mmoja wetu. Nilikuwa ninajua kutoka mwanzo na kama kuna mwingine alikuwa na shaka, kuna msemo ambao unasema ya kwamba *it is only a fool who does not change his or her mind*. Mimi sikuwa na wasiwasi na nilikuwa ninajua ya kwamba hii ripoti itapita. Ninawashukuru wote kwa kusimama kwa umoja, na kuonyesha hekima kwamba tunataka hii bodi ili vijana wetu wapate kazi na waweze kujivunia kwamba tuko na bodi.

Vijana ambao wako huko nje wanafaa kujitayarisha ili kazi ambazo zitatangazwa wataweza kuomba ili waweze kupatiwa. Bwana Spika, kuna mambo ambayo yamesemwa na Waheshimiwa hapa kwamba kuna wakati ambao tunaketi na tunapitisha watu hasa wakati huu. Wakija hapa, huwa wanakuja wakiwa wamenyenyekea. Wakipata kazi wanamea kucha na kuwa fisi.

Watu wa Laikipia hawapati kazi na ndio maana ninasema wakati huu tuko na bodi, mimi na Mheshimiwa Ndiritu ninaapa ya kwamba nitakuwa macho. Kama kuna mtu yeyote atatoka nje ya Laikipia, isipokuwa asilimia thelathini ambayo inakubaliwa na Katiba, asilimia sabini na tano ya watu ambao watapitwa kazi katika Kaunti ya Laikipia wawe ni watu wa Magharibi, Mashariki na Kaskazini mwa Laikipia. Ninaomba waheshimiwa kama vile

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wamefanya mchango wao kwa umoja, tuhakikishe ya kwamba tumepitisha hii ripoti kwa umoja.

Huu ndio wakati mwafaka wa kuwa na hii bodi na kwa sababu ninajua wengine wamechoka na tunataka kupitisha hii bodi, ninaomba tupitishe kwa umoja ili tuweze kuwa na bodi. Ninashukuru Waheshimiwa kwa kuchangia. Sina shaka kwamba mambo yote iko sawa. Kwa hayo machache na mengi, ninauliza Waheshimiwa kuungana na kupitisha hii bodi. Kama mnataka watu wetu wapate ajira, ni lazima kuwe na bodi. Kama tunataka kupata fursa, lazima bodi iwe. It is now my pleasure to request the Assembly to approve this board. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. The motion has been moved, seconded and debated.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 16th October, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.44 a.m.

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