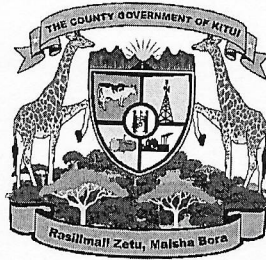


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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY – (THIRD SESSION)

COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

REPORT

ON VETTING OF NOMINEES TO THE SELECTION PANEL FOR SELECTING
SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AS COUNTY SECRETARY,
COUNTY ATTORNEY AND SECRETARY TO THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE
BOARD.

Clerk
Approved.

11/02/2025

I Mr. Speaker
You may approve
for vetting to be
done
at 11/2/2025

Clerk's Chambers,
County Assembly Buildings,
Kitui, Kenya

FEBRUARY, 2025.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Amb	Ambassador
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
CGA	County Governments Act
CPA	Certified Public Accountant
CPSB	County Public Service Board
CRB	Credit Reference Bureau
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission
FCS	Fellow Certified Secretary
H.E	His Excellence
HELB	Higher Education Loans Board
KCA	Kenya College of Accountancy
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
KNEC	Kenya National Examinations Council
KPLC	Kenya Power & Lightning Company
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SEKU	South Eastern Kenya University
PACAAA	Public Appointments (County Assemblies) Approval Act, 2017

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 requires the Governor to nominate and with the approval of the County Assembly appoint a Selection Panel for the purpose of selecting suitable candidates for appointment as County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board, and County Attorney respectively.

Sections 15 (2b) and 18 (2) of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, provides that the Selection Panel shall consist of; -

- a) a chairperson, not being a public officer;
- b) one person from the private sector;
- c) an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, who is a member of the Law Society of Kenya;
- d) an accountant who is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya; and
- e) one person from an association representing workers.

Pursuant to the above legal provisions, His Excellency the Governor Dr. Julius M. Malombe forwarded to the County Assembly, vide a letter dated 23rd December 2024 and referenced *CGKTI/OOG/ADMIN/23/52 (Annex 2)*, a list of five nominees for approval to serve in the Selection Panel to select suitable candidates for the positions of the County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board and the County Attorney. Consequently, this message was conveyed to the Assembly by the Speaker on 20th January, 2025 pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act (PACAAA), 2017 and Standing Order (SO) No. 39 during a special sitting convened via gazette notice no. 189 of 9th January 2025.

The following table enlists the nominees as received: -

S/N	NAME	POSITION	GENDER	SUB-COUNTY	SECTORAL REPRESENTATION
1.	Dr. Nzomo Mwita	Chairperson	Male	Kitui East	Not a public officer
2.	Eng. Stephen K. Nguli	Member	Male	Mwingi West	Private Sector
3.	CPA Jacinta Wangove Mwendwa	Member	Female	Kitui West	Accountant
4.	Joseph Munyasya Kimwele	Member	Male	Mwingi North	Association of Workers
5.	Amb. Dr. FCS Koki Muli Grignon	Member	Female	Kitui Central	Advocate of the High Court

Upon committal of the nominees' list pursuant to Section 7 (1) of PACAAA, 2017, the Committee on Appointments held her first sitting on 20th January 2025 on the rise of the House as directed by the Speaker.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 (4) of the PACAAA, 2017, the Clerk of Assembly notified the nominees together with the members of the public on the date, time and place of the approval hearings on 21st January, 2025 in the Daily Nation and Standard newspapers. The adverts also required members of the public to submit statements of memoranda contesting the suitability of the nominees on or before 24th January 2025.

On Tuesday 28th January, 2025, the Committee held approval hearings at the County Assembly Chambers to determine the suitability of the nominees for appointment to serve in the Selection Panel.

During the vetting, the Committee was guided by Article 73(2) of the Constitution, Sections 15 and 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 and Section 8 of PACAAA, 2017 to examine the nominees against the following criteria, amongst others: -

- i. Academic qualifications;
- ii. Employment records and work experience;
- iii. Professional affiliations;
- iv. Potential conflict of interest;
- v. Knowledge of the relevant subject matter;
- vi. Relevant clearances certificates from:
 - a) Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission;
 - b) Kenya Revenue Authority;
 - c) Credit Reference Bureau;
 - d) Directorate of Criminal Investigations; and
 - e) Higher Education Loans Board;
- vii. Overall suitability for the position.

Upon considering the suitability of the nominees, the Committee unanimously made the following recommendations to the House: -

- i. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Dr. Nzomo Mwita** for appointment as the Chairperson to the Selection panel.

- ii. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Eng. Stephen K. Nguli** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- iii. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **CPA. Jacinta wangove Mwendwa** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- iv. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Mr. Joseph Munyasya Kimwele** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- v. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Amb. Dr. FSC Koki Muli Grignon** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Committee registers its appreciation to the Office of the Speaker, Office of the Clerk and the Committee secretariat for the logistical support extended during the vetting process.

In addition, the Committee thanks the nominees for their cooperation during the vetting process. Finally, the Committee appreciates the government agencies that provided references and background checks relating to the suitability of the nominees.

I acknowledge and appreciate Members of the Committee for their patience, sacrifice and commitment which enabled the Committee to complete the task within the required timelines.

On behalf of the Committee on Appointments, and pursuant to Sections 15 and 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020, Section 8 of PACAAA, 2017 and Standing Order 179(6), it is my pleasant duty and pleasure to present the 6th Report of the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Nominees for Appointment as Members of the Selection Panel to select suitable candidates for the positions of the County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board and the County Attorney for consideration by the House.

SIGNED: _____

HON. KEVIN KINENGO KATISYA
CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

DATE: 11/02/2025

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Committee on Appointments is established under Standing Order 184 and mandated to consider for approval by the County Assembly, appointments under Article 179(2) of the Constitution and also persons nominated for approval pursuant to provisions of other laws.

1.2 Committee Membership.

2. The Committee as currently constituted comprises of the following Members:

1. Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya	Chairperson
2. Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia	Member
3. Hon. Alex Mutambu Nganga	“
4. Hon. Mathew Ngovi Vuthi	“
5. Hon. Hussein Mwandia	“
6. Hon. Judith Wanza Kasyoka	“

1.3 Legal Framework on the Selection Panel.

3. Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Government (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 requires the Governor to nominate and with the approval of the County Assembly appoint a Selection Panel for the purpose of selecting suitable candidates for appointment as County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board, and County Attorney respectively.
4. Section 15(2B) of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020 provides that the Selection Panel shall consist of; -
 - a) a chairperson, not being a public officer;
 - b) one person from the private sector;

- c) an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, who is a member of the Law Society of Kenya;
- d) an accountant who is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya; and
- e) one person from an association representing workers.

1.4 Notification to the Assembly

5. Through a letter dated 23rd December, 2024 referenced and referenced CGKTI/OOG/ADMIN/23/52 (*Annexure 2*) and pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 and Section 6 of the PACAA, His Excellency (H.E.) the Governor Dr. Julius M. Malombe notified the County Assembly of the nomination of five (5) persons for appointment as Members of the Selection panel.
6. The list contained the following five (5) persons: -
 1. **Dr. Nzomo Mwita**, Chairperson to the Selection panel (not a public officer)
 2. **Eng. Stephen K. Nguli**, Member/Private sector
 3. **CPA Jacinta Wangove Mwendwa**, Member/Accountant
 4. **Joseph Munyasya Kimwele**, Member/workers/representative
 5. **Amb. Dr. FCS Koki Muli Grignon**, Member/Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

1.5 Notification to the County Assembly and Referral to the relevant Committee

7. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the PACAA Act, 2017 and Standing Order 42, the Speaker, through a Communication dated 20th January, 2025 informed the House of the Governor's nominations upon which the names of the nominees were committed to the Committee on Appointments for approval hearings and consideration (*Annexure 3*).

1.6 Notification to the nominees.

8. Section 7(4) of the PACAA Act, 2017 requires the Clerk of Assembly to notify a candidate of the time and place for holding approval hearings by notice in two (2) newspapers of national circulation and by writing. The Clerk invited nominees to appear for approval hearings on 28th January, 2025 in writing and through the print media via adverts which appeared in the Daily Nation and the Standard Newspapers for 21st January, 2025 (*Annexure 4*).

1.7 Notification to the Public

9. Article 196(1)(b) of the Constitution mandates a County Assembly to facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative business and other business of the County Assembly and its Committees. Section 7(5) of the PACAA Act, 2017 requires that the public should be notified of the time and place for holding approval hearings at least seven (7) days prior to the public hearings.
10. In compliance with the above legal provisions, on 21 January, 2025, the Clerk of Assembly placed an advertisement in print media (*Annexure 4*) informing the public of the approval hearings and further requesting them to submit written statements on oath contesting the suitability of any of the nominees. The Committee did not receive any statement(s) on oath contesting the suitability of any of the nominees as at the set deadline of 24th January, 2025.

1.8 Clearances and Compliance requirements.

11. To ensure compliance with Chapter 6 of the Constitution, the County Assembly wrote to the below listed government agencies requesting them to issue reports on the nominees relating to the matters within the respective agencies' mandate:

i. Ethics & Anti – Corruption Commission (EACC)

12. The Commission responded through a letter referenced EACC.7/10/5/Vol. XXX (91) dated 5th February, 2025 (*Annexure 5*), stating that it had neither

undertaken any investigations nor recommended prosecution against any of the nominees pursuant to its mandate.

ii. Office of the Official Receiver

13. The Official Receiver through a letter referenced OR/COS/01/Vol. I dated 30th January, 2025 (*Annexure 6*) confirmed that none of the nominees had been subjected to any insolvency proceedings.

iii. Authentication of academic certificates from various institutions

14. Concerned Universities responded to the County Assembly's request confirming the authenticity of the nominees' academic certificates [*Annexures 7(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e)*].

iv. Kenya National Examination Council

15. The Council confirmed that Certificates of Secondary School Education held by the nominees were authentic (*Annexure 8*).

v. Credit Reference Bureaus (CRB)

16. Metropol, CreditInfo and TransUnion CRB confirmed that the Credit Reference Certificates submitted by the nominees to the County Assembly were valid and authentic.

vi. Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)

17. All the nominees were cleared by HELB through accreditation of their HELB certificates as submitted to the County Assembly.

vii. Directorate of Criminal Investigations

18. Through online verification, the Certificates of Good Conduct held by the nominees were confirmed to be valid and authentic.

viii. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)

19. In addition, the nominees' tax compliance certificates were verified through the KRA iTax verifier and confirmed to be authentic.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 BACK GROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Committee proceedings.

20. The names having been committed, the Committee was required to conduct approval hearings and make determination on the nominees' suitability or otherwise within twenty-one (21) sitting days from its first sitting as provided for in section 9 of the PACAA Act, 2017.
21. The Committee held its first meeting to consider this subject matter on 20th January, 2025 and agreed on a framework for the approval hearings. It held further sittings within which it examined and reviewed the nominees' certificates and testimonials.
22. The nominees' suitability to the position and specifically as relates to whether their abilities, experience and qualities meet the set statutory requirements were assessed by scrutinizing their academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity, background and qualities as well as their performance during the approval hearings held on 28th January 2025.
23. Thereafter, the Committee retreated from 3rd to 8th February, 2025 to a Hotel in Nairobi to prepare its report. The report of the Committee contains its recommendations based on the outcome of the vetting, approval hearings of the nominees.
24. Article 73(2) of the Constitution was paramount to the Committee during the execution of its mandate. The Article provides that the guiding principles of leadership and integrity as listed below should guide public appointments: -
- i) Selection on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability;

- ii) Objectivity and impartiality in decision making, and in ensuring that decisions are not influenced by nepotism, favoritism, other improper motives or corruption practices; and
- iii) Selfless service based solely on public interest, demonstrated by: -
 - a) Honesty in the execution of public duties; and
 - b) The declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 APPROVAL HEARINGS OF THE NOMINEES

25. The Committee held its approval hearings on 28th January, 2025 during which it examined the nominees against the criteria set out under Section 8 of the PACAA Act, 2017 inter-alia as follows: -

- i) any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- ii) the suitability of the nominees for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominees' credentials, abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is being made.

26. Guided by the above legal provision, the Committee interrogated the nominees on issues listed below among others to ascertain their suitability: -

- i. Academic qualifications,
- ii. Employment records and work experience,
- iii. Professional affiliations,
- iv. Potential conflict of interest,
- v. Knowledge of the relevant subject matter,
- vi. Relevant clearances certificates from;
 - a) Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC),
 - b) Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA),
 - c) Credit Reference Bureau (CRB),
 - d) Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI),
 - e) Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), and
 - f) Office of the Official Receiver.
- vii. Overall suitability for the position.

27. The nominees appeared before the Committee in the following order;

3.1 DR. NZOMO MWITA

28. Dr. Nzomo Mwita appeared before the Committee on 28th January, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. and was heard under oath. The Committee noted the following: -

Date and place of birth

29. The nominee is a male Kenyan citizen born in 1964 and hails from Voo/Kyamatu Ward, Kitui East Sub County.

Academic and professional qualifications

30. He holds a PhD in Public Health – Kenyatta University, Masters in Community Health- University of Heidelberg, Germany, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kenyatta University.

Work experience

31. Currently serving as a Global Senior Manager at Living Goods since September 2023, the nominee has worked as a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning consultant and a manager with USAID between January 2018 and March 2023. He has also worked as a training Coordinator, Director as well as a monitoring and evaluation corporate director with AMREF Health Africa between October 2004 and January 2018 among many other senior positions in different reputable organizations.

Net worth

32. He has an estimated net worth of Kenya shillings, one hundred and fifty million (150M).

Integrity

33. The nominee submitted that he had never been charged in any court of law or adversely mentioned in any investigatory or parliamentary report of inquiry.

Original Documents

34. During the approval hearing, the nominee submitted the following original documents to the Committee for confirmation: -

- i. Identification Card;
- ii. Academic and professional certificates; and
- iii. Statutory clearances from: - KRA, HELB, DCI and CRB.

3.1.1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE NOMINEE.

35. The Committee posed several specific questions to the nominee to which he responded as follows: -

On general understanding of the roles of members of the selection panel;

36. The nominee stated that the main duty of the panel would be conducting an exercise of selecting suitable candidates to occupy the positions of a County Secretary, a County Attorney and the secretary to the Kitui County Public Service Board.

On general understanding of devolved units and their functionality;

37. The nominee demonstrated proficient knowledge on formation and functionality of County governments. He submitted that he has been involved in consultancy roles for different Counties including Kiambu, Murang'a, Machakos as he developed County monitoring and evaluation systems for them. These roles greatly exposed him to the operations of County Governments. He has also designed the Context and Systems Analysis (CSA) and stakeholder mapping studies in ten different Counties as well as leading the process of developing USAID and County Governments sector technical annexes for other 14 County Governments.

On understanding the duties as well as the qualifications of the candidates to occupy the positions of County Secretary, County Attorney and secretary to the Kitui County Public Service Board;

38. The nominee demonstrated knowledge of the duties of these officers as he submitted that while the County Secretary is the head of public service in the County, the County Attorney is the chief legal advisor to the government, an equivalent of the Attorney General in the National government.

On his suitability and competence to the position that he has been nominated;

39. The nominee submitted that he is an ardent reader of the constitution and thus very conversant with it. He further submitted that in his career has been involved in recruiting senior legal officers in different reputable organizations and that he has also worked with TANATHI water service board as a director where he worked very closely with the legal officer and got exposed to how the government executes its business. The nominee also submitted that in his senior level management positions he has held, he has recruited technical and senior officers for reputable organizations including AMREF, DANIDA, USAID not only in Kenya but different countries across the Continent.

On how he will handle political pressure and interference while executing the mandate of the selection panel;

40. The nominee submitted that he is an independent person in thought, action and in executing professional roles. He further submitted that his nomination was informed by his high level of integrity, technical knowhow and professionalism and thus he will execute his duties professionally and will be guided by the relevant laws. The nominee submitted that he will give each and every applicant an equal opportunity and committed that the panel will strive to get the best out of the best for the three key positions.

3.2 ENG. STEPHEN K. NGULI

41. He appeared before the Committee on 28th January, 2025 at 11.50 a.m. and was heard under oath. The Committee noted the following: -

Date and place of birth

42. The nominee is a male Kenyan citizen born in 1967 and comes from Migwani Ward, Mwingi West Sub County.

Academic and professional qualifications

43. The nominee holds Bachelor of Technology in Electrical and Communications (Engineering option) from Moi University awarded in 1994.

Work experience

44. He has Twenty-Seven (27) years of work experience with Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) where he has served as a Business Development Engineer, Standards Development Engineer and also as an Operations Engineer. Currently, he is the head of Standards department in the country. In addition, he submitted that he has served the community in various capacities, especially as the Board of Management (BOM) chair of various secondary schools.

On Net worth

45. The nominee submitted that he is worth around Kshs. 80 million.

Integrity

46. The nominee submitted that he has never been charged in any court of law or adversely mentioned in any investigatory parliamentary report of inquiry.

Original documents

47. During the vetting exercise, the nominee submitted the following original documents for confirmation;

- i. Identification Card;

- ii. Academic and professional certificates; and
- iii. Clearance certificates from the EACC, HELB, DCI and CRB.

3.2.1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE NOMINEE

48. The Committee posed several specific questions to the nominee to which he responded as follows: -

On understanding the devolved units and functions of the County Governments

49. The nominee submitted that the overall objective of the County Governments is to serve their people by bringing services closer to them.

On the general roles of members of the panel

50. The Nominee stated that the overall duty of the selection panel will be to develop a criteria matrix to assess each candidate's suitability. The nominee further made it clear that it is the work of the panel to recruit suitable and qualified persons and recommend them for nomination as County Secretary, County Attorney, and Secretary to the County Public Service Board.

On how his professional qualifications and work experience are relevance to the position nominated for.

51. The nominees submitted that he has been conducting interviews since 2009 to date and that he heads a team of 16 engineers. He added that the experience he has gained over the years, will help him execute his duties in the position nominated for.

On understanding the role of the County Attorney

52. The nominee demonstrated knowledge on the role of the County Attorney by stating that the County Attorney is in-charge of all the legal documentation for the County Government.

On factors to consider when selecting the County Secretary, County Attorney and the Secretary to the CPSB.

53. The nominees stated that as a panel member, he will consider the person's experience, qualifications and integrity.

On how to balance his full-time job with the position he has been nominated to

54. The nominee stated that he will take his leave days so that he can execute his mandate as a member of the selection panel.

3.3 CPA JACINTA WANGOVE MWENDWA

55. The nominee appeared before the Committee on 28th January, 2025 at 1.05 p.m. and was heard under oath. The Committee noted the following: -

Date and place of birth

56. The nominee is a female Kenyan citizen born in 1978 and comes from Matinyani Ward, Kitui West Sub County.

Academic and professional qualifications.

57. She holds Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance option) from Strathmore University awarded in 2009. Further, the nominee is a holder of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) finalist, 2006 at Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA).

Work experience

58. She has over fifteen (15) years of work experience in the field of finance, auditing, taxation and accounting, personnel trainings and general management. She has participated in developing the Kitui County Development Strategy Plan (CDSP) and a Member, Kitui County Budget and Economic Council (CBEC). Currently works as a Director, Intellect College Services Limited.

Net worth

59. She has an estimated net worth of Kenya shillings Five Hundred and Forty Million (540M).

Integrity

60. The nominee submitted that She has never been charged in any court of law or adversely mentioned in any investigatory or parliamentary report of inquiry.

Original Documents

61. During the approval hearing, the nominee submitted the following original documents to the Committee for confirmation;

- i. Identification Card;
- ii. Academic and professional certificates; and
- iii. Statutory clearances from: - KRA, HELB, DCI and CRB.

3.3.1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE NOMINEE.

62. The Committee posed several specific questions to the nominee to which she responded as follows: -

On understanding the devolved units and function of County Governments.

63. The nominee submitted that she was involved in developing critical County documents such as the Kitui County Development Strategy Plan (CDSP) and was also a Member, Kitui County Budget and Economic Council (CBEC) among other County activities. During her explanations, she demonstrated to understand the functions of the County Governments and the key roles to be performed by the three County officers they were meant to select once given the opportunity to serve in the panel.

On understanding the general roles of Members of the Selection Panel

64. The Nominee demonstrated a clear understanding of the functions of the panel. She submitted that the panel once approved would source for suitable persons

to be employed for the positions of County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to the County Public Service Board (CPSB). During the exercise, the nominee also exhibited professional qualification and roles that would be expected from the three County officers.

On how her professional qualifications and work experience has relevance to the position nominated for;

65. She submitted that a CPA is a trained person to solve problems in diverse ways in both public and private sectors. Among key things, a CPA is trained and understands recruitment process and its cost implications. She candidly explained the recruitment process that emanates from identifying gaps in an organizational structure for filling, roles and duties assigned to the position that guides on identifying qualification for the person to be recruited. She briefly and systematically expounded on the entire recruitment process as guided under relevant laws and regulations that are followed in filling a vacancy in a public institution.

66. The nominee demonstrated knowledge of the roles for position she had been nominated for.

On how she will handle political pressure and interference while executing the mandate of selection panel

67. The nominee submitted that, she will be guided by the legal criteria and relevant laws that establishes the offices and apply in selecting suitable and qualified persons for the positions of County Secretary, Secretary to CPSB and County Attorney. She also submitted that the positions are quite professional and ought to be competitively filled, canvassing shall not be allowed but compliance with the law and merit in filling the positions. She finally explained that she is gender sensitive, however, the selection shall be objective.

On understanding the roles of the County Secretary, Secretary to the CPSB and County Attorney

68. The nominee in her submissions illustrated a full understanding of the roles of the County Secretary, Secretary to CPSB and County Attorney as follows;

County Secretary-

- i. head of County Public Service,
- ii. Secretary to the County Executive Committee,
- iii. Keeping minutes of the Cabinet,
- iv. advising the Governor on administrative issues,

County Attorney-

- i. County Chief legal advisor;
- ii. Representation of the County Government in courts of law, and

Secretary to CPSB

- i. The Chief Executive Officer to the Board;
- ii. The Accounting Officer to the Board;
- iii. The Officer in-charge Human Resource development.

3.4 MR. JOSEPH MUNYASYA KIMWELE

69. Mr. Munyasya Kimwele appeared before the Committee on 28th January, 2025 at 2.35 p.m. and was heard under oath. The Committee noted the following: -

Date and place of birth

70. The nominee is a male Kenyan citizen born in 1973 and hails from Mumoni Ward, Mwingi North Sub County.

Academic and professional qualifications

71. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health from mt. Kenya University and a Diploma and a certificate in Environmental Health Science from Kenya Medical Training College.

Work experience

72. Currently working as a Sub-County Health Coordinator with the County Government of Kitui since 2023, the nominee has worked as a public health officer between 2022 and 2023 and has served in various capacities within public health sector in the County since 1998.

Net worth

73. He has an estimated net worth of Kenya shillings, six million (6M).

Integrity

74. The nominee submitted that he has never been charged in any court of law or adversely mentioned in any investigatory or parliamentary report of inquiry.

Original Documents

75. During the approval hearing, the nominee submitted the following original documents to the Committee for confirmation.

- i. Identification Card;
- ii. Academic and professional certificates; and
- iii. Statutory clearances from: - KRA, HELB, DCI and CRB.

3.4.1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE NOMINEE.

76. The Committee posed several specific questions to the nominee to which he responded as follows: -

On general understanding of the roles of members of the selection panel;

77. The nominee submitted that as a member of the Selection Panel, he will be involved in the exercise of selecting suitable persons to fill the positions of the County Attorney, Secretary to the Public Service Board as well as the position of a County Secretary.

On general understanding of devolved units and their functionality;

78. The nominee, a public health officer who has risen in ranks to become a Sub-County Health coordinator in Mwingi West, under the Ministry of Health in Kitui County, proved to have satisfactory knowledge on operations of devolved governments. The nominee submitted that he also serves as the Chair for the County government workers under the trade unions in Kitui County. He cited that these assignments have exposed him to the structures and functioning of a county government.

On understanding the duties as well as the qualifications of the candidates to occupy the positions of County Secretary, County Attorney and secretary to the Kitui County Public Service Board;

79. The nominee submitted that the County Attorney is the legal advisor to the government on all matters pertaining legal matters in the County. He further cited that the County Attorney is responsible for ensuring that the Government adheres to all legal requirements in executing her mandate. The nominee also submitted that the County Secretary is the person who is in charge of organizing the affairs of the Government business and that he is the head of public service in the County.

On his suitability and competence to the position that he has been nominated;

80. The nominee submitted that he has been a civil servant for over 25 years, an experience that he will use in determining the most qualified candidates to fill the positions at stake. The nominee also submitted that his experience in leading a trade union has given him good competence in undertaking the mandate of the selection panel. As the chair of County government workers, the nominee further submitted that he will be keen to ensure that the interests of workers are well taken care of since the three positions will largely handle matters revolving around the employees of the county government.

On how he will handle political pressure and interference while executing the mandate of the Selection Panel;

81. The nominee submitted that although he will be participating in an exercise to technically recruit his bosses, he will not be intimidated nor compromised whatsoever. He committed to discharge his duties without any fear of contradiction and that he will adhere to the rules and guidelines as would be set by the whole panel collectively. The nominee reiterated that he will act professionally without favouring any interested candidate even if the officers in the current acting capacities expressed interest in filling those positions.

3.5 AMB. DR. FSC KOKI MULI GRIGNON

82. AMB. DR. FSC Koki Muli Grignon appeared before the Committee on 28th January, 2025 at 3.26 p.m. and was heard under oath. The Committee noted the following: -

Date and place of birth

83. The nominee is a female Kenyan citizen born in 1967 and hails from Kyangwithya East Ward, Kitui Central Sub County.

Academic and professional qualifications

84. She holds Doctor (Ph.D) in law from University of Da-re-salaam, Tanzania, Masters in Arts and Bachelor of Law, University of Nairobi among other professional qualifications.

Work experience

85. She has over thirty (30) years of work experience, having served as an Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Republic of Kenya, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA between 2012 and 2013, a Lecturer and Director, Linkages and International Programmes (DLIP) SEKU from December, 2012 to July 2013. The nominee is currently working as a Senior Lecturer and founding dean SEKU, School of Law since 2021.

Net worth

86. She has an estimated net worth of Kenya shillings sixty Million (60M).

Integrity

87. The nominee submitted that She has never been charged in any court of law or adversely mentioned in any investigatory or parliamentary report of inquiry.

Original Documents

88. During the approval hearing, the nominee submitted the following original documents to the Committee for confirmation;

- i) Identification Card;
- ii) Academic and professional certificates; and
- iii) Statutory clearances from: - KRA, HELB, DCI and CRB.

3.5.1 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE NOMINEE.

89. The Committee posed several specific questions to the nominee to which he responded as follows: -

On understanding the devolved units and function of County Governments.

90. The nominee in her submissions demonstrated a good understanding of the functions of County Governments and the key roles to be performed by the three County officers they were meant to select once given the opportunity to serve in the selection panel.

On understanding the general roles of Members of the Selection Panel

91. The Nominee demonstrated a clear understanding of the functions of the panel. She submitted that the panel once approved, would develop a strategic road map and systematic events that shall culminate to selecting most suitable persons to occupy the positions of County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to the County Public Service Board (CPSB). During the exercise, the nominee also

exhibited professional qualification and roles that would be expected from the three Senior County officers.

On how she will handle political pressure and interference while executing the mandate of selection panel

92. The nominee submitted that, the selection panel shall be guided by the legal and objective criteria and further by the law in sourcing suitable persons to fill the positions. She also submitted that the team shall strictly follow the provisions made by the law in recruiting the best candidates for the positions of County Secretary, Secretary to CPSB and County Attorney. She cited some of the laws to rely on in undertaking the noble exercise to include the County Governments Act, the Public Appointments Act and the Office of the County Attorney Act. She finally highlighted that the positions are quite professional and ought to be competitively filled and that canvassing shall not be allowed but only compliance with the law and merit. Their role as a selection panel shall be professional and a function under serious public scrutiny thus shall work towards ensuring they deliver the best.

On understanding the roles of the County Secretary, Secretary to the CPSB and County Attorney

93. The nominee in her submissions illustrated a full understanding of the roles of the County Secretary, Secretary to CPSB and County Attorney as follows;

County Secretary-

- i. Head of County Public Service,
- ii. Secretary to the County Executive Committee,
- iii. Taking and keeping minutes of the Cabinet,
- iv. Advising the Governor on administrative issues,

County Attorney-

- i. The County Attorney is an equivalent of the Attorney General in the National Government with similar roles as below;
- ii. The County Principal legal advisor,
- iii. A representative of the Cabinet in the Court,
- iv. In-charge of revising the County legislation and laws to be in-line with the Constitution and ensure they are updated,
- v. Offering advice to different County ministries on legislative and legal issues, and an ex-officio to the County Cabinet.

Secretary to CPSB

- i. The Chief Executive Officer to the Board,
- ii. The Accounting Officer to the Board,
- iii. The Officer in-charge Human Resource development.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS ON SUITABILITY OF THE NOMINEES

94. The Committee having considered the nominees' filled questionnaires, curriculum vitae and their oral submissions during the approval hearing made observations on their suitability for appointment as members of the Selection Panel as follows: -

4.1. DR. NZOMO MWITA

95. The nominee is eligible for appointment as a Member of the Selection panel as he is a Kenyan citizen.
96. The nominee holds a PhD in Public Health – Kenyatta University, Masters in Community Health- University of Heidelberg, Germany, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kenyatta University.
97. He is Currently serving as a Global Senior Manager at Living Goods since September 2023, with a work experience of over 25 years working with NGOs such as USAID, AMREF Health etc.
98. He has never charged in a court of law and has fully complied with his tax obligations and has never been adversely mentioned in any investigatory report of parliament or any commission of Inquiry.
99. He demonstrated a wide understanding of the task ahead of him which is to select a suitable candidate for appointment as the County Secretary, Secretary to the CPSB and County Attorney.
100. The committee found the nominee qualified.

4.2. ENG. STEPHEN K. NGULI

101. The nominee is eligible for appointment as a Member of the Selection panel as he is a Kenyan citizen.
102. He holds Bachelor of Technology in Electrical and Communications (Engineering option) from Moi University.
103. He has over Twenty-Seven (27) years of work experience with Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) where he has served as a Business Development Engineer, Standards Development Engineer and also as an Operations Engineer. Currently, he is the head of Standards department in the Country.
104. Owing to this fact, the nominee has a distinguished career in the private Sector. Therefore, his academic credentials, professional training and experience comply with Sections 15 (2B) and 18 (1) of the County Governments (amendment) Act, 2020.
105. The nominee meets the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having been cleared by all statutory institution.
106. The nominee demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and general issues touching on Selection panel and has the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience to serve in the panel to recruit County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to CPSB.
107. The Committee found the nominee qualified

4.3. CPA JACINTA WANGOVE MWENDWA

108. The nominee is eligible for appointment as a Member of the Selection panel as she is a Kenyan citizen.

109. She holds Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance option) from Strathmore University awarded in 2009. Further, the nominee is a holder of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) finalist, 2006 at Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA).
110. She has over fifteen (15) years' work experience in the field of finance, auditing, taxation and accounting, personnel trainings and general management and currently works as a Director, Intellect College Services Limited. Owing to this fact, the nominee has a distinguished career in the private sector and some good reasonable experience in public sector having played pivotal role in developing some county critical documents and having been a member for Kitui County Budget and Economic Council (CBEC). Therefore, her academic credentials, professional training and experience comply with Sections 15 (2B) and 18 (1) of the County Government (amendment) Act, 2020.
111. The nominee meets the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having been cleared by all statutory institutions.
112. The nominee demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and general issues touching on Selection panel and has the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience to serve in the panel to recruit County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to CPSB.
113. The Committee found the nominee qualified.

4.4. MR. JOSEPH MUNYASYA KIMWELE

114. The nominee is eligible for appointment as a Member of the Selection panel as he is a Kenyan citizen.

115. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health from mt. Kenya University and a Diploma and a certificate in Environmental Health Science from KMTC.
116. He is Currently working as a Sub-County Health Coordinator with the County Government of Kitui since 2023, and has served in various capacities within public health sector in the County since 1998.
117. He meets the requirements of chapter six (6) of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having been cleared by all the relevant government agencies.
118. He demonstrated a good understanding of the role of the Selection Panel.
119. The Committee found the nominee qualified.

4.5. AMB. DR. FSC KOKI MULI GRIGNON

120. The nominee is eligible for appointment as a Member of the Selection panel as she is a Kenyan citizen.
121. She holds Doctor (Ph.D) in law- University from Da-re-salaam, Tanzania, Masters in Arts and Bachelor of Law, University of Nairobi and a Bachelor's degree in Law among other professional qualifications.
122. She has over thirty (30) years of work experience, having served as an Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Republic of Kenya, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA between 2012 and 2013, a Lecturer and Director, Linkages and International Programmes (DLIP) SEKU from December, 2012 to July 2013. The nominee is currently working as a Senior Lecturer and founding dean SEKU University, School of Law since 2021.
123. Owing to this fact, the nominee has a distinguished career in both private and public. Therefore, her academic credentials, professional training and experience

comply with Sections 15 (2B) and 18 (1) of the County Government (amendment) Act, 2020.

124. The nominee meets the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having been cleared by all statutory institution.
125. The nominee demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and general issues touching on Selection panel and has the requisite abilities, qualifications and experience to serve in the panel to recruit County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to CPSB.
126. The Committee found the nominee qualified.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

127. Following the above deliberations, the Committee unanimously makes the following recommendations to the House: -

- i. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Dr. Nzomo Mwita** for appointment as the Chairperson to the Selection panel.
- ii. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Eng. Stephen K. Nguli** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- iii. **THAT**, pursuant to Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **CPA. Jacinta Wangove Mwendwa** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- iv. **THAT**, pursuant to Section Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Mr. Joseph Munyasya Kimwele** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.
- v. **THAT**, pursuant to Section Sections 15(2A) & 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 this House approves **Amb. Dr. FSC Koki Muli Grignon** for appointment as a Member to the Selection panel.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 CONCLUSION

128. Following conclusion of the vetting exercise, the Committee urges the House to adopt the Report by the Committee on Appointments on the approval of nominees to serve in the Selection Panel for selection of suitable candidates for appointment as County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board and County Attorney.
129. On behalf of the Committee on Appointments, and pursuant to Sections 15 and 18 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, Section 5(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020, Section 8 of PACAAA, 2017 and Standing Order 179(6), it is my pleasant duty and pleasure to present the 6th Report of the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Nominees for Appointment as Members of the Selection Panel to select suitable candidates for the positions of the County Secretary, Secretary to the County Public Service Board and the County Attorney for consideration by the House.

SIGNED: _____



HON. KEVIN KINENGO KATISYA

CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

DATE: _____

11/02/2025

