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REPUBLIC OF KENYA


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION – 2025

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

REPORT ON:

THE APPROVAL HEARINGS OF NOMINEES FOR
APPOINTMENT AS REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL
PARTIES AND ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL
PARTIES

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 23 SEP 2025	
DAY: <i>Tuesday</i>	
TABLED BY:	<i>Hon. George Munira MP Chairman</i>
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	<i>A. Shabika</i>

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI



SEPTEMBER 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	i
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	ii
List of Annexures.....	iii
Chairperson's Foreword	iv
 CHAPTER ONE.....	 1
1 Preface.....	1
1.1 Establishment of the Committee.....	1
1.2 Mandate of the Committee	1
1.3 Committee Membership	3
1.4 Committee Secretariat	4
 CHAPTER TWO	 5
2 Background Information	5
2.1 Legal Framework	5
2.2 Notification of Nominations	5
2.3 Notification to the House and Referral to the Committee.....	6
2.4 Notification to the Public.....	6
2.5 Notification to the Nominees.....	6
2.6 Clearance and Compliance Requirements.....	6
2.7 Criteria for Consideration during the Approval Hearings	7
2.7.1 Procedure for Nomination	7
2.7.2 Constitutional and Statutory Requirements	8
2.7.3 Suitability of the nominees for the proposed appointments having regard to whether the nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the offices to which nominations are being made.....	10
 CHAPTER THREE	 11
3 Approval Hearings of Nominees	11
3.1 Mr. John Cox Lorionokou – Nominee to the Office of Registrar of Political Parties	11
3.1.1 Questions from General Questionnaire.....	11
3.1.2 General and Sector Specific Questions for the Nominee	13
3.1.3 Committee Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee.....	15
3.2 Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome – Nominee to the Office of Assistant Registrar of Political Parties.....	15
3.2.1 Questions from General Questionnaire.....	15
3.2.2 General and Sector Specific Questions for the Nominee	17
3.2.3 Committee Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee.....	18
 CHAPTER FOUR	 19
4 Committee Observations	19
 CHAPTER FIVE.....	 20
5 Committee Recommendations	20

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBS	-	Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear
DCI	-	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	-	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
EBS	-	Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear
EGH	-	Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart
FORD	-	Forum for the Restoration of Democracy
H.E.	-	His Excellency
HELB	-	Higher Education Loans Board
ICPAK	-	Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya
IEBC	-	Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission
IPPRC	-	Independent Political Parties Regulatory Commission
KASNEB	-	Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examination Board
KCPE	-	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
KCSE	-	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
KRA	-	Kenya Revenue Authority
KSG	-	Kenya School of Government
KU	-	Kenyatta University
MCCP	-	Maendeleo Chap Chap Party
MP	-	Member of Parliament
ODM	-	Orange Democratic Movement
OGW	-	Order of the Grand Warrior
ODPP	-	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
ORPP	-	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
UDA	-	United Democratic Alliance
UDM	-	United Democratic Movement
WDM	-	Wiper Democratic Movement

LIST OF ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Transmittal Letter by the Head of Public Service
- Annexure 2: Message No. 011 of 2025 from the Speaker
- Annexure 3: Advertisement notifying the public of the approval hearings
- Annexure 4: Letters from the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting the nominees for the approval hearings
- Annexure 5: Letters from the Clerk of the National Assembly to DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP, ORPP, Maseno University, KU and Strathmore University
- Annexure 6: Letters of clearance from DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP, ORPP and Maseno University
- Annexure 7: *Curricula Vitae*, certificates and testimonials of the nominees
- Annexure 8: Memoranda in support of the nominees
- Annexure 9: Adoption Schedule and Minutes

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report contains the proceedings of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs during the approval hearings of persons nominated for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties as forwarded by the Selection Panel and communicated to the House by the Speaker of the National Assembly on 19th August 2025.

Section 34A of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D bestows upon the Public Service Commission the responsibility of recruiting the Registrar of Political Parties and Assistant Registrars of Political Parties whenever a vacancy arises in the offices. Therefore, in accordance with section 34A as read with paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Sixth Schedule to the Act, the Public Service Commission invited applications for the positions of Registrar and Assistant Registrars from the public, considered the applications, conducted interviews and nominated three (3) persons qualified for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties and three (3) persons qualified for appointment as Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, respectively. Consequently, the Public Service Commission forwarded the names of the selected candidates to the President for nomination for appointment.

In exercise of powers conferred by section 34A as read with paragraph (5) of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D and sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, H.E. the President nominated **Mr. John Cox Lorionokou** and **Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome** for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, respectively.

The Rt. Honourable Speaker vide Message No. 011 of 2025 dated 19th August 2025 conveyed to the House the Message from H.E. the President and subsequently referred it and the *curricula vitae* of the nominees to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for approval hearings in accordance with section 4 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F and Standing Orders 42(3)(c) and 45(1) of the National Assembly Standing Orders. While referring the matter to the Committee, the Speaker directed that the Committee undertakes the approval hearings and reports to the House within twenty-one (21) days in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D. The Rt. Hon Speaker further directed the Clerk of the National Assembly to notify the nominees and the general public of the time and place of holding the approval hearings.

In fulfilment of the provisions of Article 118(b) of the Constitution and section 6(2), (3), (4) and (9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, the Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media notifying the public of the time and place of holding the approval hearings and inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (affidavit) on the suitability of the nominees. The advertisement indicated that the memoranda were to be received by 27th August 2025 at 5.00 pm. By close of the submission deadline, the Committee had received three (3) memoranda from the public in support of the nominees.

The Clerk of the National Assembly also wrote to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Office of the Director or Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), Kenyatta University (KU), Maseno University and Strathmore University seeking references and background checks relating to the suitability of the nominees.

The nominees appeared before the Committee on 28th August 2025 as scheduled and the Committee examined their suitability based on the criteria set out in section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F including the procedure used to arrive at the nominees, the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to the offices in question and suitability of the nominees for the appointment proposed, having regard to whether the nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the offices in question. Furthermore, the Committee examined the nominees' academic credentials, relevant professional training and experience, knowledge of sector issues and personal integrity in accordance with section 6(7) and (8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F.

In holding the approval hearings, the Committee observed that the nominees demonstrated deep understanding of political parties and the roles of Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties. Further, that the nominees possess the requisite abilities, academic qualifications and professional experience required for persons nominated to serve as Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that this House—

- (i) **approves Mr. John Cox Lorionokou** for appointment as **Registrar of Political Parties**; and
- (ii) **approves Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome** for appointment as **Assistant Registrar of Political Parties**.

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the technical support accorded to it during the exercise. The Committee further extends its appreciation to the nominees for their cooperation during the parliamentary approval process. The Committee also appreciates the DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP, ORPP and Maseno University for providing references and background checks relating to the suitability of the nominees. Finally, I acknowledge and appreciate the Honourable Members of the Committee who sat for long hours and made useful contributions towards the preparation and production of this Report.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and pursuant to Article 124(4)(b) of the Constitution, section 8(1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F and the provisions of Standing Order 199(6) of the National Assembly Standing Orders, it is now my duty and privilege to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on the Approval Hearings of Nominees for Appointment as Registrar of Political Parties and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties.

Hon. George Gitonga Murugara, CBS, MP
Chairman, Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs



CHAPTER ONE

I PREFACE

I.1 Establishment of the Committee

1. The Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs is one of twenty departmental committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandate pursuant to the **Standing Order 216 (5)** is as follows:

- (a) *To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;*
- (b) *To study the programme and policy objectives of ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;*
- (c) *To, on a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;*
- (d) *To study and review all legislation referred to it;*
- (e) *To study, assess and analyse the relative success of the ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;*
- (f) *To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;*
- (g) **To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve**, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments);
- (h) *To examine treaties, agreements and conventions;*
- (i) *To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation;*
- (j) *To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and*
- (k) *To examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.*

I.2 Mandate of the Committee

2. In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the Committee is mandated to consider:

- (a) The Judiciary;
- (b) Tribunals;
- (c) Access to Justice;
- (d) Public prosecutions;
- (e) Ethics, Integrity and Anti-corruption;
- (f) Correctional services;
- (g) Community service orders and witness protection;
- (h) Constitutional Affairs;
- (i) Sovereign immunity;
- (j) Elections including referenda;
- (k) Human rights;
- (l) Political parties; and
- (m) The State Law Office including insolvency, law reform, public trusteeship, marriages and legal education.

3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversights the following Ministries, Departments and Agencies:

- (a) The Judiciary;
- (b) Judicial Service Commission;
- (c) State Department for Correctional Services;
- (d) State Law Office and Department of Justice;
- (e) State Department for Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs;
- (f) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (g) Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
- (h) Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission;
- (i) Commission on Administrative Justice;
- (j) Office of the Registrar of Political Parties;**
- (k) Witness Protection Agency;
- (l) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights;
- (m) Kenya Law Reform Commission; and
- (n) Council of Legal Education.

1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Committee comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Murugara George Gitonga, CBS, MP
Tharaka Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Mutuse Eckomas Mwengi, OGW, MP
Kibwezi West Constituency

MCCP Party

Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP
Uasin Gishu Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Maalim Farah, EGH, MP
Dadaab Constituency

WDM-Kenya

Hon. Onyiego Silvanus Osoro, CBS, MP
South Mugirango Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Francis Kajwang' Tom Joseph, CBS, MP
Ruaraka Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Wetang'ula Timothy Wanyoyi, CBS, MP
Westlands Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. (Dr.) Otiende Amollo, SC, EBS, MP
Rarieda Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Muchira Michael Mwangi, MP
Ol Jorok Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS MP
Runyenjes Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Makali John Okwisia, MP
Kanduyi Constituency

FORD-Kenya

Hon. Mogaka Stephen M., MP
West Mugirango Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Aden Daud, EBS, MP
Wajir East Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Siyad Amina Udgoon, MP
Garissa County (CWR)

Jubilee Party

Hon. CPA Suleka Hulbale Harun, MP
Nominated Member

UDM Party

1.4 Committee Secretariat

5. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

Mr. Ahmed Salim Abdalla
Clerk Assistant I / Head of Secretariat

Mr. Ronald Walala
Senior Legal Counsel

Mr. Abdikafar Abdi
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Jael Ayiego
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Isaac Nabiswa
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Omar Abdirahim
Fiscal Analyst I

Ms. Vivienne Ogega
Research Officer III

Mr. John Nduaci
Serjeant-At-Arms

Mr. Meldrick K. Sakani
Audio Assistant

Ms. Mary Kamande
Public Communications Officer III

Mr. Calvin Karung'o
Media Relations Officer III

Mr. Silas Opanga
Hansard Reporter III

CHAPTER TWO

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Legal Framework

6. The Committee was guided by the following provisions of the Constitution and statutes in executing its mandate:
- (1) Article 10 of the Constitution on the national values and principles of governance;
 - (2) Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity;
 - (3) Article 77 of the Constitution on restriction on activities of State Officers;
 - (4) Article 78 of the Constitution on dual citizenship;
 - (5) Article 118 of the Constitution on public participation;
 - (6) Article 124(4) of the Constitution on consideration of persons for appointment to public office;
 - (7) Article 232 of the Constitution on values and principles of public service;
 - (8) Article 250(2) of the Constitution on the appointment process of the Chairperson and Members of a constitutional commission;
 - (9) The Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D.
 - (10) The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F;
 - (11) The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act, Cap. 7H; and
 - (12) The Leadership and Integrity Act, Cap. 185C.

2.2 Notification of Nominations

7. Sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F stipulate as follows:

“3. Exercise of powers of appointment

An appointment under the Constitution or any other law for which the approval of Parliament is required shall not be made unless the appointment is approved or deemed to have been approved by Parliament in accordance with this Act.

5. Notification of nomination

- (1) An appointing authority shall, upon nominating a person for an appointment to which this Act applies, notify the relevant House of Parliament accordingly.*
- (2) A notification under subsection (1) shall be —*
 - (a) in writing;*
 - (b) be lodged with the Clerk of the relevant House of Parliament.*
- (3) A notification of appointment shall be accompanied by information concerning the nominee, having regard to the issues mentioned in section 7.*
- (4) For purposes of this Act, a notification of nomination shall be deemed to be duly given on the day on which it complies fully with subsections (2) and (3).”*

8. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D as read with the aforementioned provisions of the law, H.E. the President, through the Head of Public Service, transmitted to the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly the Presidential Nomination Certificates No. 10 and 11 of 2025, the Selection Report for the Recruitment of Nominees for Appointment as Registrar Political Parties and Assistant

Registrar of Political Parties and the nominees' *curricula vitae* vide letter referenced OPI/CAB.26/4A/VOL.I dated 14th August 2025 (Annexure 1).

2.3 Notification to the House and Referral to the Committee

9. Standing Order 45(1) of the National Assembly Standing Orders provides that:
"Upon receipt of a notification of nomination for appointment to a State Office or such other office as is under the Constitution or under any other legislation required to be approved by the House, the nomination shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee of the House for consideration."
10. To this end, therefore, the Rt. Hon. Speaker, vide Message No. 011 of 2025 dated 19th August 2025 (Annexure 2) conveyed to the House the Message from H.E. the President nominating Mr. John Cox Lorionokou and Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome for appointment as Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, respectively.
11. In addition, and pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the names and *curricula vitae* of the nominees to the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for approval hearings and reporting to the House within twenty-one (21) days.

2.4 Notification to the Public

12. Article 118 of the Constitution provides that *Parliament shall facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative business and other business of Parliament and its Committees.*
13. Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F and Standing Order 45(3) of the National Assembly Standing Orders further provide that the Clerk shall notify the public of the time and place for holding an approval hearing at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.
14. Accordingly, the Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement dated 20th August 2025 in the print media notifying the nominees and the general public that the Committee would conduct the approval hearings on 28th August 2025 at Committee Room 26, 5th Floor, Bunge Tower, Parliament Buildings at 11.00 am and 12.00 noon (Annexure 3).

2.5 Notification to the Nominees

15. The Clerk of the National Assembly vide letters referenced NA/DDC/JLAC/2025/(093) and (094) dated 20th August 2025 (Annexure 4) invited the nominees for the approval hearings in accordance with section 6(3) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F.

2.6 Clearance and Compliance Requirements

16. Vide letters dated 20th August 2025 and referenced NA/DDC/JLAC/2025 (086), (087), (088), (089), (090) and (091) the Clerk of the National Assembly wrote to the DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP and ORPP (Annexure 5) requesting for reports with respect to the nominees on the following matters:
 - (a) criminal records;
 - (b) ethics and integrity;

- (c) higher education loan repayment(s);
- (d) tax compliance;
- (e) active criminal court proceedings; and
- (f) political party affiliations.

17. The Clerk of the National Assembly also wrote to the Maseno University, Strathmore University and Kenyatta University vide letters referenced NA/DDC/JLAC/2025/(097), (098) and (099) dated 25th August 2025 (Annexure 5) seeking reports on authenticity of the nominees' academic credentials.

18. The following institutions wrote back to the National Assembly clearing the nominees: DCI vide letter referenced DCI/CRO/SEC/6/7/2/A/VOL.XVIII/133 dated 27th August 2025; EACC vide letter referenced EACC.7/10/5 VOL XXXIII(93) dated 27th August 2025; HELB vide letter referenced HELB/RR/112009/VI/438 dated 27th August 2025; KRA vide letter referenced KRA/5/1002/5(12869) dated 3rd September 2025; ODPP vide letter referenced ODPP/SPP/GEN dated 27th August 2025; ORPP vide letter referenced RPP/ORG/34 VOL. IX (32) dated 22nd August 2025; and Maseno University vide letter referenced MSUI/ACA/TC/T4/VOL.15(52) dated 3rd September 2025. (Annexure 6)

19. As at the time of adoption of this Report, KU and Strathmore University had not responded.

2.7 Criteria for Consideration during the Approval Hearings

20. Section 6(7) and (8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F provides that:

“(7) An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate’s academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background.

(8) The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate.”

21. Additionally, section 7 of the Act provides that the issues for consideration by the relevant House of Parliament in relation to any nomination shall be:

- (a) the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;
- (b) any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- (c) the suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominee’s abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which nomination is being made.

22. While conducting the approval hearings, the Committee was guided by the provisions of section 6(7) and (8) and section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F.

2.7.1 Procedure for Nomination

23. Section 34A of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D provides that:

*“Whenever a vacancy arises in the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties or the Assistant Registrar, the President shall, with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint the Registrar of Political Parties or the Assistant Registrar **from the names of nominees***

forwarded by the Public Service Commission in accordance with the Sixth Schedule to this Act.”

24. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D further provides that:

- “(1) The Public Service Commission shall, within seven days of its appointment and whenever a vacancy arises, by notice in the Gazette, in at least two newspapers of national circulation and in at least two radio and television stations with national coverage, invite applications for the positions of the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar.
- (2) The Public Service Commission shall, within seven days of the end of the period prescribed for receipt of applications under paragraph 1, consider the applications, shortlist qualified applicants and interview the shortlisted applicants.
- (3) The Public Service Commission shall conduct the interviews under paragraph 2 in public.
- (4) The Public Service Commission shall, following the conclusion of the interviews under paragraph 2, nominate and forward to the President the names of three nominees for appointment to the Office of Registrar of Political Parties and the names of nine nominees for appointment to the office of Assistant Registrar.
- (5) The President shall, within fourteen days of receipt of the names of the nominees under paragraph 4, nominate one of the three persons for appointment to the Office of Registrar of Political Parties and three persons for appointment as Assistant Registrar of Political Parties and forward the names of the nominees to the National Assembly for approval.
- (6) The National Assembly shall, within twenty one days of the receipt of the names of the nominees under paragraph 5, consider the nominees and approve or reject the nominations.”

25. In accordance with section 34A as read with paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act. Cap. 7D, the Public Service Commission invited applications from the public, conducted interviews and shortlisted three (3) and nine (9) persons qualified for appointment as Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, respectively, and subsequently, forwarded the names of the selected candidates to H.E. the President for nomination.

26. Accordingly, H.E. the President, through the Head of Public Service, forwarded to the National Assembly the names of Mr. John Cox Lorionokou and Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome for approval for appointment as Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D and section 3 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F.

2.7.2 Constitutional and Statutory Requirements

27. Article 80(c) of the Constitution as read with Section 52 of the Leadership and Integrity Act, Cap. 185C stipulates that the provisions of Chapter Six of the Constitution and Part II of the Leadership and Integrity Act, Cap. 185C shall apply to all public officers as if they were State officers.

28. Therefore, the Committee was guided by the following provisions of law on the requirements for appointment to the State office (Registrar of Political Parties) and public (Assistant Registrar) office:

(a) National Values and Principles of Governance

29. Article 10 of the Constitution provides for the national values and principles of governance which State officers must abide by in discharging their mandate. They include: patriotism; national unity; sharing and devolution of power; the rule of law; democracy and participation of the people; human dignity; equity; social justice; inclusiveness; equality; human rights; non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized; good governance; integrity; transparency and accountability; and sustainable development.

(b) Conduct of State Officers

30. Article 75 of the Constitution requires a State Officer, whether in public or private life to behave in a manner that avoids conflict between personal interest and public official duties. The Article further prohibits a State officer who has been dismissed or otherwise removed from office for contravention of provisions of Chapter Six of the Constitution from holding any other State office.

31. Article 77 of the Constitution outlines that a full-time State officer must not participate in any other gainful employment and that any appointed State officer must not hold office in a political party.

32. Moreover, the Constitution under Article 78 further stipulates that a State officer must not hold dual citizenship but instead shall be a citizen of Kenya only.

33. Article 232 provides for the values and principles of public service as high standards of professional ethics; efficient, effective and economic use of resources; responsive, prompt, effective, impartial and equitable provision of services; involvement of the people in the process of policy-making; accountability for administrative acts; transparency and provision to the public of timely, accurate information; fair competition and merit as the basis of appointments and promotions; representation of Kenya's diverse communities; and affording adequate and equal opportunities for appointment, training and advancement, at all levels of the public service of men and women, members of all ethnic groups and persons with disabilities.

(c) Qualifications for Appointment as Registrar and Assistant registrar of Political Parties

34. Section 33(6) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D provides that:

"A person shall be qualified for appointment as Registrar or as an Assistant Registrar if the person—

- (a) holds a degree from a university recognised in Kenya;*
- (b) has proven knowledge and experience in any of the following fields—*
 - (i) finance;*
 - (ii) management;*
 - (iii) political science;*
 - (iv) law;*
 - (v) governance; or*
 - (vi) public administration;*

- (c) *has, in the case of the Registrar, at least fifteen years post qualification experience in the relevant areas of expertise and, in the case of an Assistant Registrar, has at least ten years post qualification experience in the relevant area of expertise; and*
- (d) *is a person of high moral character and integrity and has satisfied the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.”*

35. Furthermore, section 33(7) provides for the disqualification for a person to be appointed as a Registrar or Assistant Registrar of Political Parties as follows:

*“(7) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Registrar or Assistant Registrar if the person has, at **any time within the preceding five years, held office or stood for election as a member of Parliament or a county assembly or as a member of a governing body of a political party.***

(d) Leadership and Integrity

36. The Committee, in determining the suitability of the nominees, was also guided by the provisions on leadership and integrity as outlined under Chapter Six of the Constitution. In particular, Article 73(2) of the Constitution provides that the guiding principles of leadership and integrity include:

- (a) selection on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability, or election in free and fair elections;
- (b) objectivity and impartiality in decision making, and in ensuring that decisions are not influenced by nepotism, favouritism, other improper motives or corrupt practices;
- (c) selfless service based solely on the public interest, demonstrated by
 - (i) honesty in the execution of public duties; and
 - (ii) the declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties.
- (d) accountability to the public for decisions and actions; and
- (e) discipline and commitment in service to the people.

37. In addition, the Committee considered section 10 of the Leadership and Integrity Act, Cap. 185C in particular which provides that:

“A State officer shall, to the best of their ability—

- (a) carry out the duties of the office efficiently and honestly;*
- (b) carry out the duties in a transparent and accountable manner;*
- (c) keep accurate records and documents relating to the functions of the office; and*
- (d) report truthfully on all matters of the organization which they represent.”*

2.7.3 Suitability of the nominees for the proposed appointments having regard to whether the nominees’ abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the offices to which nominations are being made

38. The suitability of the nominees was assessed after scrutiny of the nominees’ academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity, background and qualities as well as their performance during the approval hearings conducted on 28th August 2025.

CHAPTER THREE

3 APPROVAL HEARINGS OF NOMINEES

39. The Committee held a sitting on 28th August 2025 to deliberate on the approval hearings and noted that:

- (a) the nominees had not notified the Clerk of the National Assembly of their withdrawal from the approval process as outlined in section 6(10) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F;
- (b) the Committee had not received any memoranda contesting suitability of the nominees. Instead, it had received three (3) memoranda in support of the nominees: one memorandum by Charles Ndirangu Maina in support of Mr. John Cox Lorionokou and two memoranda by Charles Ndirangu Maina and Immaculate Kassait, Office of the Data Protection Commissioner in support of Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome (Annexure 8); and
- (c) the two current Assistant Registrars of the Political Parties comprise one man and one woman and, therefore, the nomination of a female Assistant Registrar complied with Article 27(8) of the Constitution as read with section 33(2) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D on the two-thirds gender principle.

40. The Committee, therefore, proceeded to examine the nominees on the areas set out in sections 6(7), 6(8) and 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F as follows:

3.1 Mr. John Cox Lorionokou – Nominee to the Office of Registrar of Political Parties

41. The nominee appeared before the Committee on 28th August 2025 and was vetted under oath to examine his suitability. The Committee noted the following:

3.1.1 Questions from General Questionnaire *Citizenship, Date and Place of Birth*

42. The nominee is a male Kenyan citizen and does not hold any other citizenship. He was born in 1973 in West Pokot County.

Academic and Professional Qualifications

43. The nominee holds a:

- (a) Ongoing: Master of Arts in Governance and Ethics, Mount Kenya University;
- (b) 2015: Diploma in Public Relations Management, Kenya Institute of Management (KIM);
- (c) 2001: Bachelor of Education (Arts), Maseno University;
- (d) 1992: Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), Nakuru High School; and
- (e) 1988: Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), Kacheliba Mixed Primary School.

44. The nominee also indicated that he has undergone the following professional trainings:

- (a) 2018: Senior Management Course, Kenya School of Government (KSG);
- (b) 2016: Training of Trainers, Bridge Facilitator, Bridge;
- (c) 2015: Electoral Officials Capacity Building Program, AWEB, South Korea;

- (d) 2014: Cooperate Governance, KSG;
- (e) 2014: Performance Management, KSG;
- (f) 2013: Modular Course on Post Election activities, Bridge;
- (g) 2012: Conflict Mitigation Trainer of Trainers, Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS); and
- (h) 2011: Geo-Spatial Database Development and Management (Arc GIS 9.3.2 & GPS), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development.

Employment Record and Work Experience

45. The nominee has worked in the following capacities:

- (a) 2022-to date: County Elections Manager, Trans Nzoia County, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC);
- (b) 2019-2022: County Elections Manager, Elgeyo Marakwet County, IEBC;
- (c) 2017-2019: County Elections Manager, Kisumu County, IEBC;
- (d) 2015-2017: Senior Elections Officer, Kapenguria Constituency, IEBC;
- (e) 2012-2015: Senior Elections Officer, Kuresoi South Constituency, IEBC;
- (f) 2010-2012: Senior Elections Officer, Kuresoi Constituency, IEBC;
- (g) 2002-2009: County Director, Children of Pokot Educational Fund (COPE), Kacheliba, West Pokot County; and
- (h) 1999-2002: Assistant Project Coordinator, National Council of Churches of Kenya, Kacheliba Area, West Pokot County.

Memberships and Professional Associations

46. The nominee indicated that he is a member of:

- (a) KIM;
- (b) Scripture Union of Kenya;
- (c) Kenya Anglican Men Association;
- (d) Global Leadership Transformational Network;
- (e) Ballot Sacco;
- (f) Ballot Investment Company;
- (g) Pororiet Welfare Group;
- (h) North Rift Welfare Group;
- (i) Maseno University Christian Union alumni (MUCUA);
- (j) Kapenguria Farmers Dairy Association;
- (k) Karat Community Group;
- (l) St. Dorcas Rorok ACK Church; and
- (m) Exclusive Club 200 (Book Reading and Chairty Club).

Published Writings

47. The nominee indicated that he has participated in preparation of the following:

- (a) The Elections Manual (Source Book) 2015;
- (b) The Elections Operations Handbook, 2017;
- (c) The Returning Officers Guide, 2016;
- (d) The Presiding Officers Guide, 2016;
- (e) The Tallying Centre Guide, 2016;
- (f) The Election Security Manual, 2016;
- (g) The Police Officers Election Guide, 2015; and
- (h) Post-Election Evaluation Report, 2017.

Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations

48. The nominee indicated that he currently serves as an IEBC County Election Manager and has previously served in the following appointive public offices:
- (a) Constituency Election Coordinator, IEBC; and
 - (b) Acting Regional Elections Coordinator, Central Rift Region, IEBC.

Integrity

49. The nominee submitted that he has not been charged in a court of law, nor has he been adversely mentioned in any investigatory report produced by Parliament or a Commission of Inquiry within the past three years. In addition, the nominee stated that he has never been dismissed or removed from office for violating the provisions outlined in Article 75 of the Constitution.

Income and Net Worth

50. The nominee estimated his net worth to be Kshs. 50 million comprising jointly-owned land, livestock, a motor vehicle and a motor cycle. He indicated his current sources of income to include salary and allowances, SACCO dividends, mixed crop-livestock farming and bank shares.

Potential Conflict of Interest

51. The nominee declared that he is currently not associated with any persons or matters that would present a potential conflict of interest should he assume the position of the Registrar of Political Parties. If a conflict of interest were to arise, he stated that she would resolve it according to the provisions of the law.

Pro Bono and Charity Work

52. The nominee indicated that he is engaged in the following charity work through monetary contribution and by devoting his time, as a:
- (a) Finance and Development Chairman, St. Barnabas Parish Kamuino;
 - (b) Chairman, St. Dorcas Rorok local Church;
 - (c) Youth Patron, Kamuino Parish;
 - (d) Chairman, Board of Management for Konyao Boys High School;
 - (e) Chairperson, North Rift Region (Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot and Turkana Counties) Scripture Union of Kenya (SUK);
 - (f) Member, National Governing Council (NGC) of the Scripture Union of Kenya; and
 - (g) Member, Ebenezer Group (group of Christians from Kacheliba Constituency and Amudat District in Uganda).

3.1.2 General and Sector Specific Questions for the Nominee

53. The Committee posed several questions to the nominee on his suitability for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties. The nominee responded as follows:

On political party membership

54. The nominee stated that, if approved, he would ensure that registration of persons as members of political parties adheres to the set rules and regulations such as submission of consent forms alongside applications for membership through a thorough verification process.

On his professional experience

55. The nominee submitted that he has the requisite experience of over fifteen years in public administration and management having served as a County Elections Manager in Kisumu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Trans Nzoia Counties where he was responsible for overseeing staff, planning and budgeting operations for the IEBC. He emphasized his success during his tenure, noting that among the three counties where he served, only one Election Petition was filed and subsequently dismissed by the courts. He further highlighted that his experience in Kisumu County was particularly challenging, equipping him to be a diligent and decisive leader.
56. The nominee further submitted that his fifteen-year experience at IEBC had afforded him the opportunity to interact with the politics and politicians of Kenya, instrumental to the role of Registrar of Political Parties.

On regulation of political party nominations

57. The nominee was of the view that political parties are independent entities while the IEBC is the arbiter of elections. As such, the role of IEBC is not in political party primaries before submission of candidate lists but thereafter.

On deregistration/suspension of political parties

58. The nominee noted that the law provides for conditions on deregistration and/or suspension of political parties. He stated that, if approved, he would be guided by the law in dealing with political parties that do not adhere to the statutory requirements.

On funding of political parties

59. The nominee submitted that the Political Parties Act provides for the Political Parties Fund and its distribution to political parties.

On briefcase political parties

60. The nominee noted that Article 4 of the Constitution recognizes Kenya as a multi-party democratic state and as such any political party that meets all the stipulated requirements for registration should be granted registration. He further stated that consistent enforcement of compliance is necessary in dealing with the issue of briefcase political parties.

On visibility of ORPP countrywide

61. Noting that the ORPP only has presence in twelve out of forty-seven counties in the country, the nominee underscored the need to reinforce presence of the ORPP in all counties to further public awareness on political parties' affairs.

On utility of Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC)

62. The nominee submitted that during his tenure as a Senior Elections Officer at IEBC, he interacted with PPLCs and observed that when properly organized and compliant with the law, PPLCs play a critical role in resolving local-level issues, as demonstrated in Nakuru during the boundary delimitation.

On proposed establishment of Independent Political Parties Regulatory Commission (IPPRC)

63. The nominee noted that, although the National Dialogue Committee proposed replacing the ORPP with the IPPRC to strengthen political parties, he believed that the replacement may not be necessary. In his view, the ORPP has been effective so far and should instead be strengthened.

3.1.3 Committee Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee

64. The Committee having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire pursuant to section 6(8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, his *curriculum vitae* and having heard his oral submission during the approval hearing, made the following observations on his suitability for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties:
- (1) THAT the nominee holds a Bachelor of Education (Arts) Degree from Maseno University and thereby meets the requirements of section 33(6)(a) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D.
 - (2) THAT the nominee possesses expertise in management, governance and public administration of more than fifteen years post-qualification experience having served in various managerial positions at the IEBC since 2010 and a leadership role in Children of Pokot Educational Fund since 2002 thereby meets the requirements of section 33(6)(b) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D.
 - (3) THAT the nominee demonstrated high moral character and a history for integrity in public service and thus meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution and section 33(6)(d) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D on leadership and integrity.
 - (4) THAT the nominee, having been cleared by DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP, ORPP and Maseno University meets the statutory requirements for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties.

3.2 Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome – Nominee to the Office of Assistant Registrar of Political Parties

65. The nominee appeared before the Committee on 28th August 2025 and was vetted under oath to examine her suitability. The Committee noted the following:

3.2.1 Questions from General Questionnaire
Citizenship, Date and Place of Birth

66. The nominee is a female Kenyan citizen and does not hold any other citizenship. She was born in 1977 in Nyeri County.

Academic and Professional Qualifications

67. The nominee holds a:
- (a) June 2024: Master of Management in Agribusiness, Strathmore University;
 - (b) October 2001: Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Kenyatta University;
 - (c) May 1997: Certificate in Computer Programming (Basic Language), Word Perfect and MS-DOS, Computer Training Centre; and
 - (d) 1992-1995: KCSE, St. Anne's Girls High School, Kiriari, Embu County.
68. She also indicated that she is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Finalist and Certified Public Secretaries (CPS) Finalist.

Employment Record and Work Experience

69. The nominee has served in the following capacities in the IEBC:
- (a) May 2023-to date: Internal Information Security Management System (ISMS) Auditor;
 - (b) June 2019-December 2022: Regional Accountant for Nairobi/Kajiado and Lower Eastern Regions;
 - (c) May 2016-June 2019: Finance Manager; and
 - (d) January 2011-April 2016: Internal Audit Manager.
70. She also indicated that she served in various capacities concurrently at IEBC:
- (a) January 2023-April 2025: Manager-Risk and Compliance;
 - (b) August 2023-April 2025: Data Protection Officer; and
 - (a) October 2023-April 2025: Integrity Assurance Officer.
71. She also indicated that during her time at the IEBC, she undertook the following special assignments:
- (a) August 2024-April 2025: Acting Director-Research, Electoral Boundaries and Risk Management; and
 - (b) August 2024: Acting Director-Internal Audit and Compliance.
72. In addition, the nominee indicated that she has also worked as:
- (a) April 2005-December 2010: Internal Auditor, Equity Bank Limited;
 - (b) September 2004-March 2005: Operations Officer, Equity Bank Limited; and
 - (c) July 2002-August 2004: Finance Officer, Equity Bank Limited.
73. She also indicated that she has undertaken the following special assignments:
- (a) September 2018-November 2018: Member, Fresh Presidential Election (FPE) Coordination Team-Finance, Procurement and Administration; and
 - (b) February 2016-March 2016: Supervisor, Okoa Kenya Constitutional Amendment Popular Initiative.

Honours and Awards

74. The nominee indicated that she received the Michael J Njenga Prize of Kenya Accountants and Secretaries, awarded by the Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB) in October 2002.

Memberships and Professional Associations

75. The nominee indicated that she is a member of:
- (a) May 2010-to date: the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK);
 - (b) July-December 2020: Wapi Nduru Program Advisory Committee;
 - (c) The Institute of Internal Auditors; and
 - (d) Nkoroi Catholic Church.

Published Writings

76. The nominee indicated that she has the following publications:
- (a) Effect of Record Keeping Practices on Dairy Farming Business Performance in Kiambu County: A Case of Kiambaa Constituency (published by Strathmore University Business School in June 2024); and

- (b) Data Protection: Legal Right, Obligation for Data Controllers and Data Processors (published by the Ballot Issue 18; January to April 2025 (3RQORE7Qlc.pdf)).

77. She also indicated that she had participated in the preparation of:

- (a) IEBC Annual Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025;
- (b) 2025-2029 Draft IEBC Strategic Plan; and
- (c) Draft Data Protection and Privacy Policy Framework for IEBC.

Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations

78. The nominee submitted that she has previously held the position of Acting Director, Internal Audit and Compliance at the IEBC.

Integrity

79. The nominee submitted that she has not been charged in a court of law, nor has she been adversely mentioned in any investigatory report produced by Parliament or a Commission of Inquiry within the past three years. In addition, the nominee stated that she has never been dismissed or removed from office for violating the provisions outlined in Article 75 of the Constitution.

Income and Net Worth

80. The nominee estimated her net worth to be Kshs. 103 million comprising jointly owned land, house, liquid and semi-liquid assets and motor vehicles. She indicated her current sources of income to include salary and allowance, share dividends and interest income.

Potential Conflict of Interest

81. The nominee declared that she is currently not associated with any persons or matters that would present a potential conflict of interest should she assume the position of the Assistant Registrar of Political Parties. If a conflict of interest were to arise, she stated that she would resolve it according to the provisions of the law.

Pro Bono and Charity Work

82. The nominee indicated that she is engaged in charity work by devoting time and monetary contributions to the Nkoro Catholic Church.

3.2.2 General and Sector Specific Questions for the Nominee

83. The Committee posed several questions to the nominee on her suitability for appointment as Assistant Registrar of Political Parties. The nominee responded as follows:

On the proposed establishment of IPPRC

84. The nominee was of the view that if established, there is need for a clear demarcation of roles between the IPPRC and the ORPP Secretariat to ensure efficient operations.

On the conduct of political party nominations

85. The nominee submitted that while Article 88 of the Constitution bestows upon IEBC the duty to regulate party nominations, the Registrar of Political Parties has a role to monitor, supervise and ensure compliance of political parties to their Constitution(s), internal rules and regulations. She added that political parties should enjoy autonomy in conducting their nominations.

On suitability for the role

86. The nominee noted that her experience in financial management at the IEBC and project management at Equity Bank Limited equipped her with apt skills in persuasion and dispute resolution. She added that, if approved, she would leverage those skills in encouraging consultation in decision-making and political parties' compliance with the law.

On political parties' misconduct

87. The nominee submitted that in cases of misconduct, she would first issue warnings and where it persists, legal sanctions such as deregistration and/or suspension in accordance with the Constitution and the Political Parties Act depending on the gravity of the misconduct.

3.2.3 Committee Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee

88. The Committee, having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire pursuant to section 6(8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, her *curriculum vitae*, and having heard her oral submission during the approval hearing, made the following observations on her suitability for appointment as Assistant Registrar of Political Parties:

- (1) THAT the nominee holds Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) Degree from Kenyatta University and thereby meets the requirements of section 33(6)(a) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D.
- (2) THAT the nominee possesses expertise in finance, governance and public administration of more than ten years post-qualification experience having served in various managerial positions at the IEBC since 2011 and a finance role at Equity Bank Limited since 2002 thereby meets the requirements of section 33(6)(b) as read with 33(7) of the Political Parties Act, Cap 7D.
- (3) THAT the nominee demonstrated high moral character and a history for integrity in public service and thus meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution and section 33(6)(d) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D on leadership and integrity.
- (4) THAT the nominee, having been cleared by DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, ODPP and ORPP meets the statutory requirements for appointment as Registrar of Political Parties.
- (5) The nominee has not held office or stood for election as an MP or member of county assembly or as a member of any governing body of a political party and thereby meets the requirements of section 33(7) of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D.

CHAPTER FOUR

4 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

89. Pursuant to sections 6(7) and (8) and 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, the Committee observed that:

(a) Procedure for Nomination

- (1) The nominees were selected in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap.7D.

(b) Constitutional and Statutory Requirements

- (2) The nominees have satisfied all the following constitutional and statutory requirements including those on citizenship; leadership, ethics and integrity; tax compliance; and higher education loan repayments.
- (3) The nominees have met the integrity threshold, demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and technical issues of the positions to which they have been nominated, and have the requisite academic qualifications and professional experience to be approved for appointment.

(c) Suitability of the nominees for the proposed appointment having regard to whether the nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is made

- (4) The nominees have demonstrated deep understanding of political parties and the roles of the Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties. They possess the requisite abilities, academic qualifications and professional experience required for persons nominated to serve as the Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Political Parties.

CHAPTER FIVE

5 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS


90. Having considered the nominees pursuant to section 33(6) and (7) as read with paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of the Sixth Schedule to the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D and sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, the Committee recommends that the National Assembly:

- (a) **approves** the appointment of **Mr. John Cox Lorionokou** as **Registrar of Political Parties**; and
- (b) **approves** the appointment of **Ms. Agatha Wanjiku Wahome** as **Assistant Registrar of Political Parties**.

SIGNED.....  DATE 23.9.2025

HON. GEORGE GITONGA MURUGARA, CBS, MP
CHAIRMAN

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPER LAID	
DATE: 23 SEP 2025	
DAY: <u>Tuesday</u>	
TABLED BY:	<u>Hon. George Murugara, MP</u> <u>Chairperson</u>
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	<u>A. Shabuka</u>