

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Sixth Session

Wednesday 9th March, 2022

(The House met at 9.30 a.m.)

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto) in the Chair]

PRAYER

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto): Welcome honourable members to this morning session.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Honourable Alex Bett!

Hon. Alex Bett (Member for Litein ward): Thank you honourable Speaker, allow me to give notice of the following motion.

Aware that a motion was brought to the House by Hon. Hezron Ngetich on the 28th September 2021 to suspend the Internal advertisement for various positions in the department of Finance and Public Service Management and that the County Public Service Management appear before the Committee of the Whole House within Seven days.

Aware that the Committee of the Whole House met with the County Public Service Board Members and the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Public Service Management on 1st march 2022 to discuss the same.

Further Aware that the committee had earlier given the following recommendations which were later adopted by the House;

1. That the names of the officers to be replaced and or promoted should be provided to the committee on Governance, Labor and Social Welfare for the sake of transparency and accountability.
2. That the County Public Service Board provides all correspondence approving the advertisements of the vacant positions and confirming availability of funds for recruitment to the committee of Governance, Labor and Social welfare before re advertisement of the vacant positions
3. That all the vacant positions be advertised externally to give opportunity to all qualified candidates.
4. That the positions of village administrators captured in the advertisement be replaced with ward administrators for the wards that do not have ward administrators.

Noting that monies had been appropriated for the recruitment exercise for financial year 2021/2022

Concerned that time is running out for the implementation of current budget and that the contract for enforcement officers ended on the 28th February 2022 and this will subsequently affect service delivery.

I urge this Honourable House to rescind the report of the committee of the Whole House on the Motion raised by Hon Hezron Ngetich and adopted by the House on 16th November 2021 so that the County Public Service Board can continue with the recruitment exercise based on the committee's current recommendation. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Thank you.

MOTION BY HONORABLE ALEX BETT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Honourable Alex Bett!

Hon. Alex Bett (Member for Litein Ward): Thank you once more honourable Speaker, I beg to move this motion.

Aware that a motion was brought to the House by Hon. Hezron Ngetich on the 28th September 2021 to suspend the Internal advertisement for various positions in the department of Finance and Public Service Management and that the County Public Service Management appear before the Committee of the Whole House within Seven days.

Aware that the Committee of the Whole House met with the County Public Service Board Members and the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Public Service Management on 1st march 2022 to discuss the same.

Further Aware that the committee had earlier given the following recommendations which were later adopted by the House.

1. That the names of the officers to be replaced and or promoted should be provided to the committee on Governance, Labor and Social Welfare for the sake of transparency and accountability.
2. That the County Public Service Board provides all correspondence approving their advertisements of the vacant positions and confirming availability of funds for recruitment to the committee of Governance, Labor and Social Welfare before re advertisement of the vacant positions
3. That all the vacant positions be advertised externally to give opportunity to all qualified candidates.
4. That the positions of village administrators captured in the advertisement be replaced with ward administrators for the wards that do not have ward administrators.

Noting that monies had been appropriated for the recruitment exercise for financial year 2021/2022

Concerned that time is running out for the implementation of current budget and that the contract for enforcement officers ended on the 28th February 2022 and this will subsequently affect service delivery.

I urge this Honourable House to rescind the report of the committee of the Whole House on the Motion raised by Hon. Hezron Ngetich and adopted by the House on the 16th November 2021 so that the County Public Service Board can continue with the recruitment exercise based on the committee's current recommendation. Thank you.

Before I call my seconder I wish to tell this House that this motion is very important and very urgent, for a while now we have been anticipating the recruitment especially for our Chebwagan boys. Unfortunately for the motion that was earlier brought to this House by honourable Hezron Ngetich had a curtail and had tasked the County Public Service Board to recruit this staff recently. When we met as the committee of the Whole House we purposed and we decided that these boys should be recruited and the only way that we thought as the committee of the Whole House that could give permission to the County Public Service Board was to rescind the previous motion which had been passed. The whole House unanimously passed this motion during that meeting. We rescind the place where we had given the County Public Service Board an opportunity to externally employ this youth and others, before the end of this financial year. Time is no longer on our side and if we advertise externally and follow all the procedures it may take a long time, like three months. It was therefore the prayer and agreement of the whole committee that we replace external advertisement with internal advertisement. Knowing that one of the reasons that we really wanted these youths to be employed is because their contract already expired and we need these ladies and gentlemen to be absorbed in our County Public Service Board to their various departments. The committee of the whole house further agreed that the County Public Service Board provides to the committee on Governance, Labour and Social Welfare with the list of all these staff who will be employed for accountability. We also

agreed that the County Public Service Board provides all the correspondents approving the advertisement for the various vacant positions confirming availability of funds for recruitment to the committee on Governance, labour and Social Welfare. We are all aware that we provided funds during our supplementary budget to cater for this recruitment. It is my humble request that this house rescinds the previous motion and adopts our current recommendations so that the County Public Service Board can go ahead with the recruitment exercise. I now wish to call my seconder honourable Anthony Ruto. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Honourable Anthony Ruto!

Hon. Anthony Ruto (Member for Kipkelion Ward): Thank you honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I may also second this very important motion. I stand here to urge this honourable House to rescind the report of the Whole House which was chaired by honourable Hezron Ngetich so that we can give an opportunity to the Public Service Board to recruit the 150 enforcement officers. I want to bring to the attention of this particular House that as we are speaking now the contract which was given to these 150 enforcement officers expired on 28th February 2022 and during the meeting that we had last week, we agreed with the Public Service Board and also the CEC Member Public Service Management that this process should be started now so that this enforcement officers can also enjoy the fruits of their hard work. I support the motion, thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Thank you honourable member I understand that this is not a predetermined motion; they will allow the external advertisements for all the people.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Any member who wishes to comment on this? Honourable member representing the people of Ainamoi?

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance to speak on behalf of the people of Ainamoi. First allow me to mourn my friend who until his demise was the Public relations officer at the office of the Deputy Governor, Mr. Zebulon Mutai. I know most of the members here know him because we have been with him most of the time here at the County Assembly. I would like to pass my message of condolences to the family, the people of Boywek sub location and the people of Ainamoi ward at large. May the good Lord grant them strength during these difficult times. I also want to inform you that the fundraiser for the funeral expenses will take place tomorrow at his home in Chepkoi.

Secondly, I want to join my colleagues in supporting this motion. This is a very important motion because it is going to reverse the decision that we made some time back, which was made before we got an explanation from the County Public Service Board who removed our fears and that is the reason why we now want the County Public Service Board to proceed with the process of recruiting this people. This advert is not going to be internal because when you look at that advert, there are various positions that were advertised and some were internal and some were external. Our worry was the Chebwagan trainees who were trained by the County Government and they were promised that they were going to be employed. Our fears were that they may never get an opportunity if the advert went as it was at that time but when the County Public Service Board appeared before us they clarified everything and we now want them to proceed with the advertisement, and apart from the 150 that are going to be confirmed we also asked the committee to employ more. This is election period and I urge the County Public Service Board to move with speed to confirm and employ them.

Apart from the Chebwagan trainees we had also other vacant positions and we want the board to proceed and employ all these other people. We have funds that were there in the main budget and we further appropriated more money during the supplementary budget and now that we are going towards the end of the financial year we do not want that money to get lost, it must be accounted for.

Apart from this we also have the ECDE (Early Childhood Development and Education) teachers who are to be employed. Being the chairperson Education committee I must remind them and I want them to move with speed to employ the 200 teachers that they had promised us. The County Government has always been engaging people on contractual basis and I want to ask the honourable members that as we prepare to pass this year's budget we should ensure that we get enough funds to confirm these people. History will judge us harshly if we leave these people without confirming them, remember this government is coming to an end this August and we do not want to leave our workers at the mercies of the next government. I want to urge all the honorable members that we appropriate enough funds so that we put every other person who is on contract to permanent and pensionable terms so that we secure their future. I support this motion. Thank you very much.

Deputy Speaker (Hon Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Thank you, any other member? Hon. Chief Whip?

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich (Chief Whip, Member for Kisiara Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the good people of Kisiara. Allow me to start by joining my colleague honorable Cheruiyot Bett in passing my message of condolence to the family of our friend and the former employee of the County Government. I want to join my fellow honorable members in supporting this motion made by Honorable Alex. For a long time we have been in a quagmire in matters employment especially for our enforcement team whom as we sit here today their contract has expired and they have really been pestering us about their fate. I want to urge the County Public service Board to be fast in implementing this motion for them to be employed on permanent and pensionable terms. It is because of the rescindment of this motion which was first stated by Hon. Hezron Ngetich which made us call them here to make us understand what they had pertaining the employment which was advertised. And out of agreement and the negations we made we saw it prudent for us to rescind this motion for the recruitment to proceed. My biggest concern which I request honorable Anthony Ruto, chairperson Governance, Labor and Social Welfare committee to answer is on number four, why

should the position of village administrator be replaced by the ward administrator in wards that do not have one? Though I was late when these members of the Public Service Board were here, I am not convinced as to why we should replace this yet we have ward administrators. We are not even aware of those wards which do not have ward administrators; we were actually trying to create positions of village administrators. I had silently inquired from the chair and I wanted to inquire why we decided not to have these village administrators as earlier stated. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Thank you Hon. Chief Whip, any other member? If there is none, before I put the question I will ask the mover of the motion to come and shed more light on the ward and village administrators and to thank the members.

Hon. Alex Bett (Member for Litein Ward): Thank you Hon. Speaker once again for giving me this opportunity, I think for those of us who were here when the Public Service Board were making their presentation the word village administrators and ward administrators was just a rearrangement of the positions according to their scaling, it was well stated that if we term the new recruits as ward administrators their scales were high, so it the County Public Service Board gave us the explanation that the right word of those junior ward administrators are village administrators and in fact in those positions their requirements were junior university graduates who would later graduate to ward administrators and there scales would be higher.

Otherwise Mr. Speaker I would want to thank every member for supporting this very important motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Thank you Honorable Alex.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Adjournment)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Josphat Ruto, Member for Soin Ward): Honorable members since we don't have any other business, this House stands adjourned till 2:30pm this afternoon today.

(The house rose at 10:00 am)