

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Fourth Session

Wednesday, 9th September 2020

(The House met at 2.30 p .m.)

[Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Let's proceed!

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono):Hon. Philip Rono!

Hon. Philip Rono: (Chairman Water and Sanitation Committee): Thank you Mr. Speaker
Sir, I do beg that this house approves the report of the Joint Committee on Water and sanitation,
Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources on the vetting of Mr. Richard Kiplangat
Mitei for the position of Chief Officer, Water and Sanitation, Environment, Energy, Forestry and
Natural Resources.

**MOTION BY THE CHAIRMAN WATER AND
SANITATION COMMITTEE (HON. PHILIP RONO)**

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Chairman!

Hon. Philip Rono: (Chairman Water and Sanitation Committee): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for your guidance.

I will start from page 8

The approval hearing focused on candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background as per Section 7 (8) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, No.5, 2017.

2.3 Clearance requirements

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7(8) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei was invited to the approval hearing and was required to submit clearance certificates from the following institutions;

1. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
2. The Kenya Revenue Authority;
3. The Higher Education Loans Board;
4. The Criminal Investigation Department and;
5. The Credit Reference Bureau.

2.4 Criteria for vetting

The criteria of vetting shall be guided by Section 7 (9) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 which provides that the criteria specified in the first and second schedule of that Act shall be used by the Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate. The Committee in its vetting approval hearing used a vetting tool that is in line with the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.

3.0 Vetting of Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei, Nominee for the position of Chief Officer, Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources.

In conducting the vetting process, the Committee on Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources examined the nominee against the criteria, amongst others, as set out in the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, No. 5 of 2017.

The set criteria are as follows:

- a. Academic qualifications;
- b. Professional qualifications;
- c. Employment record;
- d. Experience as relating to the docket ;
- e. Knowledge of the relevant subject;
- f. Potential conflict of interest;
- g. Pro-bono/charity work;
- h. Integrity;
- i. Vision and leadership;
- j. Expectations and key priorities; and
- k. Overall suitability for the position.

Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei of National Identification Number 14439936, Chief Officer nominee in the Department of Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources appeared before the Committee on Water and Sanitation and Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources on 6th August, 2020 and was examined under oath and the approval hearing commenced as per the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 and the County Assembly Standing Orders.

3.1 Date and place of birth

He is a Kenyan citizen born in 1st December, 1976. He hails from Ainamoi Sub-County, Kericho County.

3.2 Academic Qualifications

Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei attended Kibure primary school between the years 1982 – 1990 and later joined Poiywek High School. He proceeded to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) for Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering.

3.3 Professional qualifications

The nominee is a member of Engineers Board of Kenya.

3.4 Employment record

The nominee is currently working with County Government of Kericho as a Ward Administrator from 2014 to date, from 2008 to 2010 he worked as an assistant teacher at Chagaik Secondary School, 2006 to 2014 worked as a Project Administrator at Bartegan Enterprises Ltd and in 2012 he worked in UN-Women Future Force as Trainer of Trainees.

3.5 Knowledge of the relevant subject

The nominee has Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering thus he has the relevant knowledge that is valuable to the Department of Water, Energy and Natural Resources.

The nominee also has knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

3.6 Net worth

The nominee estimated his net worth to be approximately Kshs 4.7 Million.

3.7 Honors and Awards

The nominee did not indicate any honors and awards accorded.

3.8 Potential conflict of interest

The nominee informed the Committee that there was no person or issue that brings about the potential conflict of interest in discharging his mandate as a Chief Officer in charge of Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources.

3.9 Integrity

The nominee submitted a Tax Compliance Certificate from the Kenya Revenue Authority which is valid for 12 months up to 19th January, 2021.

The nominee provided the Committee with a Certificate of Clearance from the Higher Education Loans Board serial number 21510.

The Director of Criminal Investigations issued the nominee with a Police Clearance Certificate reference number PCC-AAANPLSO dated 16th January, 2020.

The Nominee attached an Application for clearance from the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission dated 8th January 2020.

The nominee also provided clearance certificate from MetroPol Credit Reference Bureau reference number MCRB/C845653 dated 16th March, 2020.

3.10 Vision and leadership

The nominee's strategic objective is to ensure that there is increase in water connectivity and accessibility in the entire County and effective service delivery.

3.11 General and sector specific questions to the nominee

The Committee asked the nominee critical questions regarding his work experience and knowledge of functions in the Department of Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources.

The nominee was asked how his skills relate to the docket he has been nominated to. His response was that Agricultural and Water Engineering are closely related courses and both share major units for instance Thermodynamics, Hydraulics and Fluid Flow, Mechanics of Machines and Drainage Systems Design and Management.

The nominee was asked what plans/strategy he will put in place that will ensure all residents of Kericho County access clean water. His response was that he will improve the exploitation of surface water, enhance drilling of boreholes across the County, building water storage tanks and improve infrastructure of the existing water projects.

The nominee was also asked on what measures he will put in place to ensure efficient garbage collection. The nominee's response was that he will ensure that there is close supervision of the contractors who collect the garbage, use of technology for tracking of vehicles which collect garbage and he will identify a suitable site at each of the six Sub Counties to use as a dumpsite and in future consider purchase of garbage compacting machine.

When asked about the position he applied for, the nominee responded that he had applied for the position of Chief Officer and that the advertisement was open and it had not indicated the department where there was a vacancy.

3.12 Committee observations on suitability of Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei for appointment as Chief Officer in charge of Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources

The Committee having considered the criteria as provided by the vetting tool, his Curriculum Vitae and having heard his oral submission during the vetting interview, made the following observations on his suitability for appointment as Chief Officer for Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources;

1. That he provided all documents as required in chapter six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, about Leadership and Integrity;
2. That the nominee has the requisite knowledge and experience in Water and Environmental Management and;
3. That he demonstrated competence and understanding in various water issues during the vetting session.

4.0 Committee Recommendations

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Public Appointment (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the Committee recommends that the County Assembly approves the nomination of **Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei** as Chief Officer, Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources.

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, maybe I am the one who vetted this candidate and actually on my own understanding, the engineers who make good engineers for water in major cases, you find these Agricultural engineers and civil engineers. From the experience he happens to be one of the brains who developed the Kipkobob Water Project which is currently under construction currently. I saw the essence and the passion he has that will actually propel the County Government of Kericho in as far as water collection is concerned. I would like to request the Member who is actually a member from Soin/ Sigowet from Soin Ward Hon. Josphat Rutto to second the motion. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Hon Josphat Rutto!

Hon. Josphat Rutto: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I can second the motion. Before that, there is a correction for the chair that he had said that he was the one vetting Kiplangat Mitei. We were in a committee though he was the leader of that Committee so chair we were together but I want to thank you Chair for leading us well I want to say that I support this motion on approving Kiplangat Mitei as the Chief Officer Water and sanitation, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources. The way we say Kiplangat Mitei is that he has potential and we know that in this county we have a problem especially in the Wards that we represent. We have water problems and he has testified that the way Mr. Mitei actually designed the Kipkobob Water project with other engineers, we saw that he has knowledgeable and has capability in dealing with this as a Chief Officer Water and sanitation, Environment, Energy , Forestry and Natural Resources. So I support this motion and I urge the honorable house to actually allow Richard Kiplangat Mitei be the Chief officer Water and sanitation, Environment, Energy , Forestry and Natural Resources Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Hon Erick Bii!

Hon. Erick Bii: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity you have given unto me to precisely support the report by the Committee on Water and Forestry. The said area of appointment that is Water Forestry and Natural Resources, I think there is a service need as we have learned that along this period of time we have been having challenges by having somebody who has been acting as a Chief Officer in a another department and I want to request that we actually give Mr. Mitei a work to do so that we may reduce the challenges of the service needed. Mr. Speaker as per the report from the Chair, I want to say that Mitei is rich in agricultural knowledge. We understand that he has been in charge of a ward and with the experience he has as an engineer, he is giving us better services to our county as a CO. According to the question and vetting tools, he was able to give us challenge as members of the Committee. He was able to give us a challenge based on the collection of revenue within our county. He was able to design and say that within this period if he can be appointed as a CO he will be able to design and give work to a contractor who will give a service in the collection of refuse by designing a dumpsite. I think that is the best thing within our county because we have challenges within Kericho Town, whereby everywhere you go you will find that there are dumpsites within our town. Our town is not so clean and I believe that by giving this man work he is going to deliver.

Secondly Mr. Speaker Sir, as a brain child of Kipkobob water project, I wish honorable member from that side (Chemosot Ward) will be very happy because he was able to design a very good water project which is on-going right now and it is going to reduce the jam currently in water. As per Mr. Mitei I want to believe that he is going to deliver. So I stand to support this report and I want to request the honorable member that we give him a chance so that he can deliver to us and also to the people of Kericho County. Otherwise I support. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Hon. Alex Bett!

Hon. Alex Bett: Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me an opportunity to support the report of the Committee of Water. Mr. Speaker Sir, first and foremost let me take this opportunity to thank our able chairman Honorable Phillip Rono for the good work he did. I believe when we were interviewing the nominee, he was able to interrogate the nominee when we were interviewing. Surely as the report has put it, the nominee deserves to be given this docket. Water is a very important docket and as we vetted the nominees, we had in our minds that one of the needs in our wards is water and we wanted someone whom we can trust with our resources and also he had the required qualifications. Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that Mr. Richard Kiplangat Mitei had all that we needed what we only urge the committee and also this House is that as he take over the docket as the Chief Officer Water. We expect him to start work soon and as one of the honorable members this time round I had to martial a lot of the resources from other sectors to the department of water because this time round I have somebody who is responsible in managing our resources. Otherwise Mr. Speaker Sir I think this nominee if given an opportunity is going to deliver. I urge honorable members to support our nominee for the position of Chief Officer Water. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, Hon. Collins Biegon!

Hon. Collins Biegon: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I also rise to support this motion by the committee of water and sanitation. I will agree with this report the way I have read it. I have full confidence that chairman and its committee did a proper job and brought us somebody who is very qualified for the position. Water is a very critical department and that is why when you look at our budget, it has quite a huge chunk of resources in the county that belongs to the department of water. There are a lot of problems with water in some areas of this county that need to be addressed and I think it has come at the right time, because I have seen most members put some resources in that department. There is a CO who is acting in two other departments, so they can't dispense the work as effectively as possible so I support this candidate Mr. Richard Mitei because he has worked in our sub county and he lives in our sub county, but I'm not supporting him because he comes from Ainamoi. I am supporting him because of his track record and was

part of the people who were the brainchild of Kipkobob water project and other water projects because he was acting in that department in his capacity as ward administrator. So I rise to support and ask honorable members to support this candidate. I also wish to state that once we approve this candidate, The Governor should take immediate steps to swear him in and start working. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Hon Nancy Kimeto!

Hon. Nancy Kimeto: Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me this chance to support the nominee one Mr. Kiplangat Mitei. I am the chairperson for environment and I am from a consultative meeting of climate change. There is a program which is soon coming dealing with climate change whereby it will be dealing with environment issues and I am very happy because we have CO nominees who will fast track the same program. As the other members have said we really have one CO acting in two positions and I believe that he may not deliver as much than being given one position. We need one man one job so that delivering results are felt. So I support in totality and as Hon Collins has said, we need the Governor to swear him in so that he can fast track the process of Water and Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources. I totally support the nominee. Thank you

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): It looks like we are all supporting and instead of repeating ourselves, I will call upon the chairman to respond.

Hon. Philip Rono: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. I want to thank the honorable members for seeing actually the very big sense of approving this guy, because actually the department is now at a slow pace because we are overburdened. One Chief Officer is currently acting in the roads department and at the same time is Chief Officer for water. So it is my wish and I request honorable members that we approve this candidate for the purpose of fast tracking the works in the department. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Adjournment)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): So honorable members thank you. The Assembly stands adjourned till Tuesday next week in the morning.

(The house rose at 3:10pm)