

*Approved for Tabling*  
*Dagmar*  
*15/04/2025*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION – 2025**

**DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION  
AND INNOVATION**

.....

**REPORT ON THE APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. STEPHEN MOTARI  
ISABOKE, EBS, NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR BROADCASTING AND  
TELECOMMUNICATION**



**CLERK'S CHAMBERS  
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
NAIROBI**

**APRIL 2025**

## Table of Contents

<b>CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I PREFACE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee.....	7
1.2 Subjects under the Committee .....	7
1.3 Committee Membership .....	8
1.4 Committee Secretariat.....	9
<b>CHAPTER TWO.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Legal Framework.....	10
2.2 Qualifications for appointment as Principal Secretary.....	13
2.3 Message from H.E. the President .....	13
2.4 Speaker's Communication and Committal to the Committee.....	13
2.5 Notification to the Public .....	14
2.6 Notification to the Nominee .....	14
2.7 Clearance Requirements .....	14
2.8 Report of the Public Service Commission on the Nomination of Principal Secretaries .....	14
2.9 Committee proceedings .....	15
<b>CHAPTER THREE.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3 APPROVAL HEARING.....</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS – Nominee for the Position of Principal Secretary State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication.....	16
3.1.1 Personal Background .....	16
3.1.2 Educational Background.....	16
3.1.3 Work experience/ career progression .....	16
3.1.4 Net worth .....	17
3.1.5 Professional Associations & Affiliations.....	17
3.1.6 International Leadership Courses Attended.....	17
3.1.7 Clearance Requirements .....	17
3.1.8 Other issues under consideration .....	18
3.2 Responses from the Public.....	21
3.2.1 Chairperson Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture.....	21
3.2.2 Affidavit of Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo .....	21
<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4 OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5 RECOMMENDATION .....</b>	<b>26</b>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CA	-	Communications Authority of Kenya
CAK	-	Competition Authority of Kenya
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
DCI	-	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	-	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
H.E.	-	His Excellency
HELB	-	Higher Education Loans Board
ICT	-	Information Communication Technology
KBC	-	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
KES/KSh	-	Kenya Shilling
KRA	-	Kenya Revenue Authority
PAPAA	-	Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F)
PCK	-	Postal Corporation of Kenya
PPP	-	Private Public Partnership
ORPP	-	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
USF	-	Universal Service Fund

## ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Adoption List
- Annexure 2: Minutes
- Annexure 3: Message from H.E. the President nominating the fourteen (14) Principal Secretaries
- Annexure 4: Communication from the Speaker
- Annexure 5: Advertisement notifying the public of the approval hearings
- Annexure 6: Letter from the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting the Nominee for the approval hearing
- Annexure 7: Letters from the Clerk of the National Assembly to KRA, EACC, DCI, HELB and ORPP requesting for information on the Nominee
- Annexure 8: Letters of clearance from EACC, KRA, DCI, ORPP and HELB
- Annexure 9: Curricula vitae of the Nominee
- Annexure 10: Certificates and Testimonials
- Annexure 11: Memorandum from the Chairperson Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture
- Annexure 12: Affidavit by Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo
- Annexure 13: Response by Nominee to Memorandum from the Chairperson Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture
- Annexure 14: Response by Nominee to Affidavit by Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo



## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report contains proceedings of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation during the approval hearing of Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS, Nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting as requested by H.E. the President and communicated to the House by the Speaker on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution, Section 5 of the Public Appointments Parliamentary Approval Act (Cap. 7F) (PAPAA) and Standing Order 45(1), H.E. the President notified the National Assembly of the nomination of fourteen (14) Principal Secretaries to various State Departments vide a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Hon. Speaker vide a communication made on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 conveyed to the House the Message from H.E. the President and subsequently referred the names of the Nominees, curricula vitae, and the report of the Public Service Commission on their recruitment to Departmental Committees for approval hearings. While referring the matter to the Committees, the Speaker directed that the Committees undertake the vetting exercise within twenty-eight (28) days pursuant to Section 8 of the of the Public Appointments Parliamentary Approval Act (Cap. 7F). The Speaker further directed the Clerk of the National Assembly to notify the Nominees and the general public by placing advertisements in two newspapers of nationwide circulation and the Parliamentary Website of the time and place of holding the approval hearings by Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

In compliance with Article 118 (b) of the Constitution and section 6 (4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. informing the public of the nomination, date, time and place of the approval hearing. He also invited the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (*affidavit*) on the suitability of the Nominees in conformity with section 6 (9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F). The memoranda were to be received on or before Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 5.00 p.m. (East African Time). At the close of the submission deadline, the Committee had received two memoranda contesting the suitability of the Nominee.

The Clerk of the National Assembly also wrote to Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) seeking references and background checks relating to the suitability of the Nominee.

The Nominee appeared before the Committee on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for the approval hearing. The Committee examined his suitability based on the criteria set out in Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F). In addition, the Committee examined his academic credentials, relevant experience, knowledge of sector issues and on leadership and integrity. The Committee paid due regard to the procedure used to arrive at the Nominee through the report of the Public Service Commission on the recruitment exercise; any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question and suitability of the Nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the Nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the State Departments.

## **Committee Recommendation**

The Committee having held the approval hearing of the nominee regarding their suitability, observed that due process was followed on the recruitment process as provided for under Article 155(3) (b) of the Constitution and the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval Act) (Cap. 7F). The Committee therefore recommends that the National Assembly **APPROVES** the nomination of Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS to the position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Committee registers its appreciation to the Offices of the Speaker, Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly, Office of the Director, Departmental Committees and the Committee Secretariat for the logistical support extended to it during the vetting process.

In addition, the Committee thanks the Nominee for his cooperation during the vetting process. Finally, the Committee appreciates KRA, EACC, DCI, HELB and ORPP for providing references and background checks relating to the suitability of the Nominee.

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 Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation and pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F) and provisions of Standing Orders 45(4) and 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present the Report of the Committee on the approval hearings of Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS, Nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for the State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunication for debate and adoption by the House.

**HON. JOHN KIARIE, MP  
(CHAIRPERSON)**

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION  
AND INNOVATION**

## CHAPTER ONE

### I PREFACE

#### I.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

- I. The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation is one of the Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandates pursuant to the **Standing Order 216 (5)** are as follows:
  - i. *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;*
  - ii. *To study the programme and policy objectives of ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;*
  - iii. *on a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;*
  - iv. *To study and review all legislation referred to it;*
  - v. *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;*
  - vi. *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;*
  - vii. **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);**
  - viii. *To examine treaties, agreements and conventions;*
  - ix. *To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;*
  - x. *To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and*
  - xi. *To examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.*

#### I.2 Subjects under the Committee

2. In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the Committee is mandated to oversee: Communication, information, media and broadcasting (except for broadcast of parliamentary proceedings), information technology, communication technology, including development and advancement of technology, data protection and privacy, cyberspace and cyber-security, artificial intelligence, block-chain technology, and other emerging technologies.
3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy.

### 1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation was first constituted by the House on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and further reconstituted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 comprises of the following Members:

#### Chairperson

Hon. John Kiarie Waweru, MP  
Dagoretti South Constituency

#### UDA Party

#### Vice Chairperson

Hon. Alfah Miruka Ondieki, MP  
Bomachoge Chache Constituency

#### UDA Party

Hon. Shakeel Shabbir Ahmed, CBS, MP  
Kisumu East Constituency  
Independent Member

Hon. Bernard Kibor Kitur, MP  
Nandi Hills Constituency  
UDA Party

Hon. Erastus Kivasu Nzioko, MP  
Mbooni Constituency  
WDM-K Party

Hon. Antony Njoroge Wainaina, MP  
Kieni Constituency  
UDA Party

Hon. Joseph Kipkosgei Tonui, MP  
Kuresoi South Constituency  
UDA Party

Hon. Gideon Kimaiyo Kipkoech MP  
Keiyo South Constituency  
UDA Party

Hon. Mark Ogolla Nyamita, MP  
Uriri Constituency  
ODM Party

Hon. Kakuta Maimai Hamisi, MP  
Kajiado East Constituency  
ODM Party

Hon. Flowrence Jematiah Sergon, MP  
Baringo County  
UDA Party

Hon. Khalif Ali Abdisirat MP  
Nominated Party  
UDA Party

Hon. Bensuda Joyce Atieno Osogo, MP  
Homabay County  
ODM Party

Hon. Mumina Gollo Bonaya, MP  
Isiolo County  
Jubilee Party

Hon. Umulkher Harun Mohamed, MP  
Nominated Member  
ODM Party

#### **I.4 Committee Secretariat**

5. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff secretariat:

Ms. Nuri Kitel Nataan  
**Clerk Assistant I/Head Secretariat**

Mr. Sakana Saoli  
**Clerk Assistant II**

Ms. Marlene Ayiro  
**Principal Legal Counsel I**

Mr. Thomas Ogwel  
**Fiscal Analyst I**

Mr. Githinji Wanjohi  
**Research Officer III**

Mr. Boaz Chebiego  
**Research Officer III**

Mr. Paul K. Shana  
**Sergeant At Arms**

Ms. Florence Wanja  
**Protocol Officer III**

Ms. Lilian Mburugu  
**Media Relations Officer III**

Ms. Pauline Wanjiru  
**Hansard Reporter II**

Mr. Kelvin Lengasi  
**Audio Officer III**



## 2.5 Notification to the Public

29. Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), provides that *“any person may, prior to the approval hearing, and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated”*.
30. The Clerk of the National Assembly on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, placed a notification in the print media informing the general public of the intention of the Committee to conduct approval hearings, as provided for by Article 118 (1) (a) (b) and (2) of the Constitution and Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F) which allows public participation in committee proceedings. The notification gave provision for the submission of memoranda, by way of written statements on oath (*affidavit*) on the suitability or otherwise of the Nominees, by **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 5.00 pm (East African Time)**. At the close of the submission deadline, the Committee had received two (2) memoranda contesting the suitability of the Nominee.

## 2.6 Notification to the Nominee

31. The Clerk of the National Assembly vide an advert placed in the print media on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025** and letters **Ref. NA/DDC/CII/2025/008** informed the Nominee of the nomination by H.E. the President and requested them to appear for vetting by the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025** in Committee Room 9, Main Parliament Building. The Clerk of the National Assembly further requested the Nominees to bring with him his clearance certificates from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP).

## 2.7 Clearance Requirements

32. The Clerk of the National Assembly wrote to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) and Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) requesting for tax, education loans, integrity, affiliation to political parties and criminal record status of the Nominees. The following institutions wrote back to the National Assembly clearing the nominee, KRA (letter Ref. KRA/5/1002/5(12219) dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025); DCI (letter Ref. DCI/CRO/SEC/6/7/2/A/VOL.XVI/91 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025); EACC (letter Ref: EACC.7/10/5 VOL XXXI (63) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025); HELB (letter Ref. HELB/RR/112009/V/378 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025); and ORPP (letter Ref: RPP/ORG/34 VOL. VIII (70) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025).

## 2.8 Report of the Public Service Commission on the Nomination of Principal Secretaries

33. Pursuant to Article 155 (3) (a) of the Constitution, the Public Service Commission invited applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Principal Secretary. The advertisement was published in the print media and on the Commission's Website on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
34. The advertisement period lapsed on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with a total of Two Thousand Five Hundred and Seventeen (2,517) persons submitting applications for consideration.

35. One Hundred and Nine (109) candidates were shortlisted and the names published in the print media and on the Commission website on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The interview schedule indicating the date and time of the interviews was published on the Commission website on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
36. Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS, was number twenty-two on the published list of shortlisted candidates and the interviews were conducted by the Public Service Commission on from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
37. The Public Service Commission adhered to all provisions of the Constitution in the process of advertising, shortlisting and interviewing the candidates including, merit, gender, ethnic and regional balance.

## **2.9 Committee proceedings**

38. The Committee having received the name of the Nominee was obligated to conduct the approval hearing and make a determination of the Nominee's suitability or otherwise within twenty-eight (28) days as provided for in section 8 (1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F).
39. The Committee held three (3) Sittings during which it examined and reviewed the Nominees' certificates, testimonials as well as conducted approval hearings.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3 APPROVAL HEARING

40. The Committee conducted the approval hearing for the Nominee on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. In conducting the vetting exercise, the Committee was guided by, among other documents, the Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Public Service Act and the National Assembly Standing Orders.
41. The Committee examined the Nominee using the guidelines in the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F). The Committee also considered the following in vetting the Nominees:
- i. Academic qualifications
  - ii. Employment record and work experience
  - iii. Professional association
  - iv. Public office, political activities and affiliations
  - v. Potential conflict of interest
  - vi. Suitability to the position
  - vii. Tax compliance
  - viii. Vision and leadership
  - ix. Integrity
  - x. Expectations and Key priorities

#### **3.1 Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS – Nominee for the Position of Principal Secretary State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication**

Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS was orally interviewed by the Committee and responded to questions during vetting as follows:

##### **3.1.1 Personal Background**

42. Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS stated that he is a Kenyan citizen of identity card number 9148176 and was born in Gucha, Kisii County in 1968.

##### **3.1.2 Educational Background**

43. The Nominee indicated that he holds a Master of Business Administration degree (Strategic Management) from The University of Nairobi, a Post-graduate Diploma in Marketing, (DipM.) from Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK), a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Business Administration from the University of Nairobi and has attended various Management and International Leadership courses.

44. He sat for his 'A' level examinations at Maseno National School in 1986 and his 'O' level examinations at Sameta Secondary School in 1984.

##### **3.1.3 Work experience/ career progression**

45. The Nominee was until the time of nomination, working as an executive consultant in Technology, Media, Oil, Gas & renewable energy.
46. The Nominee has also worked in the following capacities:

- i. Group Executive Director of Regulatory and Government Affairs, Africa. MultiChoice Africa Holdings, Dubai, UAE (June 2018-February 2021)
- ii. Regional Director, MultiChoice Africa Group East Africa (November 2011-June 2018);
- iii. General Manager/Managing Director, MultiChoice Kenya (January 2008-October 2011);
- iv. Head of Commercial, Shell Kenya (June 2006 to December 2007)
- v. General Manager, Shell Kenya (January 2003 to June 2006)
- vi. Reseller Business Manager, Shell Kenya (October 2000 to December 2002)
- vii. Brands & Communication Manager (June 1998 to September 2000)
- viii. Senior Brand Manager (September 1995 to June 1998); and
- ix. Field Sales and Brand Manager (September 1991 to June 1995)

47. He has knowledge and experience in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, regulatory affairs management, strategic corporate communications and public affairs management, Brand and Corporate Communications strategy and Talent identification.

#### **3.1.4 Net worth**

48. The Nominee informed the Committee that he was worth approximately **KSh. 681 million**. The source of his wealth was from salaries earned from being a business executive, parcels of lands, rental income and funds received from consultancy jobs that he undertook.

#### **3.1.5 Professional Associations & Affiliations**

49. The Nominee informed the Committee that he is affiliated with the following organizations and associations:

- i. Kenya Historical Association
- ii. Member of the American Cultural Centre Library Nairobi
- iii. Executive Member of the Kenyan American Studies Association (KAMESA)
- iv. Member of Board of Governors, St Mary's Secondary School
- v. Member, Board of Governors Chesamisi High school.
- vi. Member, Council for the Development of Social Science Research Africa (CODESRIA).
- vii. Regular visiting Lecture, the Kenya National Defence College.

#### **3.1.6 International Leadership Courses Attended**

50. The Nominee stated that he has published the following publications:

- i. Executive Coaching Diploma Academy of Executive Coaching (AoEC), UK 2011
- ii. Regulatory Master Class Course: Bath, UK (2019)
- iii. Harvard Business School Naspers Executive Leadership Program (2015)
- iv. Executive Leadership Development Course (ELDP) University of Wits, SA (2004)
- v. Advanced Business Management Course, Cranfield University UK (2000)

#### **3.1.7 Clearance Requirements**

51. The Committee confirmed that the Nominee had been cleared by KRA, ORPP, DCI, EACC and HELB, having obtained clearance certificates to that effect.

### **3.1.8 Other issues under consideration**

To examine the suitability or otherwise of the Nominee, the Committee posed questions to the Nominee in the following thematic areas:

#### **On Leadership and Integrity**

52. The Nominee acknowledged that there might be a potential conflict of interest on account of his shareholder status in GOtv. He submitted that he had since resigned as a Director at GOtv and indicated that once appointed to the role, he would be willing to recuse himself on handling any issues on the relationship between GOtv and KBC. He further reiterated that his acquisition of shares in GOtv was due to a legal provision that required the company to have at least 30% local shareholding. He averred that the process that led to his acquisition of the 30% was legal and above board and further that he acquired nominal shares for a value of Kshs 5.2million. The Nominee submitted that he would be willing to relinquish his shareholding from GOtv if approved and appointed as Principal Secretary.
53. He further added that in the event of identifying a conflict of interest, he would take immediate steps to mitigate its impact which would involve: recusing himself from any decision-making or involvement in matters where a conflict exists and publicly disclosing the conflict and outlining measures taken to address it. He concluded that his actions shall be guided by his dedication to moral behavior and public trust and will make sure that his choices put the welfare of Kenyans and the development of programs first by proactively recognising and resolving any potential conflicts of interest.
54. During the vetting process his family ties with an FM station was raised, the Nominee also acknowledged his nephew ran a local FM station, the Nominee emphasized his commitment to transparency and ethical conduct. He assured the Committee that any potential conflict of interest would be disclosed as is provided by law and further that he would take the necessary steps to recuse himself from any concerned matter.

#### **On Strategic Vision**

55. The Nominee expounded on his vision for revitalizing KBC, which has been struggling financially. He stressed the need for effective financial management, strategic partnerships, and innovative approaches to ensure the long-term sustainability of the station. Recognizing the importance of innovation in driving broadcasting improvements, he emphasized the necessity of clear, consistent, and accurate communication to ensure government programs are easily understood by the public.
56. The Nominee also submitted that he appreciated the role of the private sector in realizing the effective implementation of government projects. He affirmed his commitment to working within the provisions of the Public Private Partnerships Act in a bid to come up with commercialization strategies for the agencies that will be under his purview. He stated that he believed that the private sector has the requisite resourcing and expertise needed to revitalize the broadcasting and telecommunications space.



57. The Nominee further proposed using communication as a tool to generate public awareness of government projects and activities. With a firm belief in the power of effective communication, the Nominee committed to modernizing KBC's operations, improving its outreach, and expanding network coverage across both urban and rural areas of Kenya. His plan would include leveraging partnerships, optimizing financial management, and ensuring that KBC's content resonates with a broader audience.

### **On Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks**

58. The Nominee provided his vision for updating and strengthening Kenya's legislative and regulatory frameworks to address the emerging digital challenges facing the country. He proposed a revision of the Cybercrimes Act to better handle the spread of misinformation and online harm, while also protecting the public from digital threats. He emphasized the need for public education on the consequences of misusing digital platforms and the importance of ensuring that there are regulatory safeguards to ensure a balance between media freedom and accountability. Further, he averred that he advocates for media self-regulation rather than government interventions.
59. The Nominee outlined key reforms that he would bring on board, if approved for appointment. These would include enhancing digital e-commerce fulfilment, introducing a national addressing system, strengthening cybercrime laws, local content promotion, site colocation and improving consumer protection regulations. In particular, he focused the need of ensuring that a fair and inclusive licensing framework was put in place, promoting infrastructure sharing, and ensuring that frequency and spectrum management is efficient and equitable.
60. The Nominee observed that these reforms will be aimed at creating a regulatory environment that would support both traditional and new media platforms. He also committed to upholding media freedom, engaging with media stakeholders, and promoting responsible journalism while ensuring that regulations were fair and balanced. He reiterated that the approach will aim at creating a level playing field where media outlets, both large and small, can thrive.

### **On Media and Broadcasting**

61. The Nominee underscored the importance of improving KBC's financial situation, particularly through lobbying for government support to clear outstanding financial obligations. He informed the Committee that by ensuring that media houses like KBC meet their financial responsibilities, he aims to prevent situations where staff go for months without being paid, as this could damage the credibility and operation of such outlets.
62. Acknowledging the evolving media landscape, the Nominee committed to strengthening the financial model for content creators, emphasizing fair remuneration and enhancing their economic participation. He reiterated that by supporting local content creation, he hopes to build a more sustainable media ecosystem that will promote diversity and innovation.
63. In terms of improving KBC's content, the Nominee proposed attracting new talent and generating fresh ideas to appeal to both viewers and advertisers. He recognizes the challenges posed by changing technology and audience preferences and aims to ensure

that KBC and other state-owned media outlets stay relevant by adapting to these shifts. He also pledged to balance the interests of public and private broadcasters, fostering a harmonious media environment that benefits all stakeholders.

64. The Nominee addressed the critical issue of uneven journalism training, particularly in rural areas and outside of Nairobi. He committed to expanding access to quality journalism education, including diploma and certificate programs, to empower youth across Kenya, particularly in underserved counties including the use of online training. He informed the Committee that this initiative was tied to his vision of empowering youth, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills necessary to succeed in the rapidly evolving media industry.
65. In addition to promoting training for journalists, the Nominee acknowledged the role of content creators in shaping the future of Kenya's media landscape. He placed emphasis on the fact that local content creators, including bloggers and independent producers, must be fairly compensated for their work. By improving the financial models for content creators, he aims to foster a more inclusive and equitable media environment that benefits all participants.

#### **On Telecommunication Landscape**

66. The Nominee noted the need to seize and analyze data on underserved areas to better target Universal Service Fund (USF) interventions. He highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement, including collaboration with the Parliamentary Committee, to accurately identify these areas. He further indicated that the Communications Authority (CA) will be instrumental in addressing the connectivity gaps through targeted initiatives.
67. He noted that the Kenya Kwanza manifesto places great emphasis on the digital economy, which cannot be realized without robust digital infrastructure reaching even the most rural areas of our nation.
68. On the issue of dominance in the telecommunication space, the interviewee pointed out that competition is addressed under the Kenya Information and Communications Act (KICA). He affirmed that Kenya operates a free market economy, and dominance is not problematic, however he enthused that the main concern lay in the abuse of that dominance. He stressed that innovation and success should not be penalized but noted the importance of regulatory safeguards. The Communications Authority of Kenya should institute mechanisms to prevent the abuse of market dominance, particularly through its regulation of inter-call termination rates.

#### **On Stakeholder Collaboration**

69. Recognizing the impact of misinformation on public trust, the Nominee emphasized the need for putting in place a robust and coordinated approach to tackle fake news, cybercrime, and digital threats. He proposed working closely with both national and international stakeholders to develop strategies that effectively address these challenges. The Nominee informed the Committee that by collaborating with other African nations and global organizations, he hopes to create a unified response to the growing issue of online misinformation, which transcends borders and has the potential to erode societal cohesion.

70. The Nominee also outlined a plan to streamline communication across government agencies, ensuring that public messaging is unified and consistent. This would help avoid confusion, ensure that the public receives accurate information and enhance the credibility of government communication efforts.

#### **On Emerging Issues**

71. The Nominee expressed a forward-thinking approach to the challenges posed by digital technology, proposing innovative solutions such as the use of satellite technology to improve connectivity in remote and underserved areas. He informed the Committee that this approach would ensure that youth across the country, not just those in urban centers, have access to digital learning opportunities and can participate in the digital economy.
72. In terms of privacy and online safety, the Nominee emphasized the need for a balanced approach that protects individuals' privacy while addressing cyber risks. He stressed the importance of safeguarding youth from cyberbullying and harmful online content, while also ensuring their right to privacy is upheld. The Nominee proposed a national digital training program that would address these concerns by equipping youth with the necessary skills to navigate the digital world safely and effectively.

### **3.2 Responses from the Public**

#### **3.2.1 Chairperson, Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture**

73. The Committee received a memorandum from the Chairperson of the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture (*ANNEX 11*) contesting the nomination of Mr. Stephen Isaboke as Principal Secretary in the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications.
74. The Committee accorded the nominee an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised in the memorandum to which he replied in writing (*ANNEX 13*).

#### **3.2.2 Affidavit of Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo**

75. The Committee received an affidavit from Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo (*ANNEX 12*) contesting the nomination of Mr. Stephen Nyaboke as Principal Secretary in the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications.
76. The Committee accorded the nominee an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised in the memorandum to which he replied in writing (*ANNEX 14*).

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4 OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

77. The Committee observations were guided by Article 155 of the Constitution, section 47 of the Public Service Commission Act and section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), in terms of issues for consideration as follows:

- i. the procedure used to arrive at the Nominee;
- ii. any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- iii. suitability of the Nominees for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the Nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is made.

78. In evaluating the suitability of Mr Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS for appointment to the position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication, the Committee considered the following:

- i. The relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act governing the appointment of State Officers;
- ii. The vetting questionnaire duly completed and submitted by the Nominee;
- iii. The Curriculum Vitae of the Nominee;
- iv. The Nominee's academic and professional certificates availed to the Committee;
- v. The clearances in relation to the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution; and
- vi. The oral submissions made by the Nominee during the approval hearing.

79. The Committee made the following general observations on the Nominee:

- i. The Nominee is a Kenyan and not a citizen of any other country. He therefore meets the requirements of Article 78 of the Constitution;
- ii. The Public Service Commission submitted the report of the recruitment of principal secretaries to the National Assembly hence the Committee was able to ascertain that the interview process was competitive and that the Nominee was in the shortlist as required by Article 155(3) of the Constitution;
- iii. The Nominee was cleared by KRA on tax compliance, HELB on the payment of his education loans, EACC on integrity, DCI on their criminal status and ORPP on membership to political parties; and
- iv. The Clerk of the National Assembly invited members of the public to submit memoranda on the Nominees pursuant to section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F). The Committee received two memoranda in contesting the suitability of the Nominee.

80. The Committee further observed that:

- i. The Nominee holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Business Administration from the University of Nairobi and therefore meets the requirements of Section 47(2) (ii) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017;

- ii. He has been a business executive therefore has leadership experience of twenty-five (25) years. He therefore been in leadership positions for more than five (5) years as required by section 47(2) (iii) of the Public Service Act, 2017;
- iii. The Committee noted that the Nominee had vast experience in the private sector of Broadcasting, Telecommunication, Media, Oil & Gas and Energy; The Nominee's cumulative academic qualifications, professional training, abilities, qualities and extensive experience in the ICT sector meet the threshold required to hold the office of Principal Secretary and having complied with all the relevant legal, constitutional, statutory, academic, professional, and ethical requirements Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke is fit to hold the position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication.
- iv. The Committee noted that the Nominee's responses to the Committee's questions demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenges facing Kenya's communication, broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. His vision for reform and innovation was centred on improving financial sustainability, expanding access to education, supporting local content creators and ensuring fair regulatory frameworks.
- v. In addition, the Committee noted that the Nominee's averment that he would focus on transparency, collaboration, and technological innovation, aims to drive growth and improve the effectiveness of the country's broadcasting and telecommunications sector which has faced many challenges because of emerging technologies.
- vi. The Committee noted that the Nominee has an understanding of the mandate of the State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunication and assured the Committee that if appointed he will quickly upskill and learn the roles of operations in the public sector.
- vii. According to the information and records presented to the Committee, the Nominee had never been implicated in any issues that may lead to lack of integrity. On his part, he declared a conflict of interest as he owns 30% shares in GoTV Kenya and indicated that he would relinquish his shareholding once appointed.
- viii. The Committee further observed that the nominee had indicated that he would follow the provisions of the law, including recusing himself when presented with a situation that was a potential conflict of interest. He therefore met the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

81. Notably, the Committee received two (2) memoranda from the public on Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS and observed the following:

**Observations on Memoranda submitted by the Chairperson, Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture**

- i. That, according to the Business Registration Service document that was attached to the memorandum, the nominee holds 643 ordinary shares in GOtv Kenya Limited with Multichoice Africa Holdings having 1499 shares. This translates to a 30% shareholding in respect to the nominee.



- ii. That, the memoranda states that Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) was offered to come in as a local shareholder for 40% in GOtv Kenya. However, the Nominee clarified that the 40% shareholding offer from Multichoice was on GOtv and not DSTv as indicated in the memorandum. Additionally, he indicated that KBC does not own any shares in GOtv.
- iii. That, the Nominee resigned from being a Group Executive Director, MultiChoice Africa Group in February 2021 and later acquired 30% shares in GOtv for Kshs. 5.1 Million through a loan which he has since repaid. The memoranda states that the shareholding offer to KBC as a local shareholder was 40% but was unable to take its shareholding of 40% in DSTV because of the regulatory restriction on operators being shareholders in more than one Broadcasting Signal Distributor given KBC shareholding in Signet and due to lack of funds. Further the memoranda states that the shares that KBC declined to take up were later allocated to Mr. Stephen Isaboke as a "loan".
- iv. That, the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture has been examining the unexplained decrease of dividends following the Reports of the Auditor- General on the Financial Statement of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation for FY 2016/2017 and is yet to table its report in the House.
- v. That, the Nominee has proactively disclosed his potential conflict of interest in accordance with public service regulations and expressed his intention to relinquish his shareholding in GOtv if appointed.

#### **Observations on Affidavit by the Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo**

- i. That, Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo states that the nominee has been an employee of KBC, yet, as per the PSC report, submitted CV, nominee verbal and written responses, the nominee has never been employed at KBC.
- ii. That, the information by Oliver Mwalakha Weyombo stating that the nominee is currently a Chairperson, Non-Executive Director, and shareholder with 30% shares in GOtv Kenya Ltd is not accurate.
- iii. That, both KBC and the MultiChoice Group have benefitted from their partnerships and KBC has received dividends worth more than Kshs. 1.7 Billion as opposed to the submission by the deponent that KBC has never received any dividends from Multichoice Kenya Limited.
- iv. That, there is no submission of the Ad Hoc Committee Report on MultiChoice Africa Holdings and the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Partnership of December 2023 highlighted that GOtv Kenya Limited, where the nominee, played a central role in unduly influencing KBC to relinquish its frequencies, infrastructure, and transmission sites to GOtv without ensuring fair compensation to the National Broadcaster.

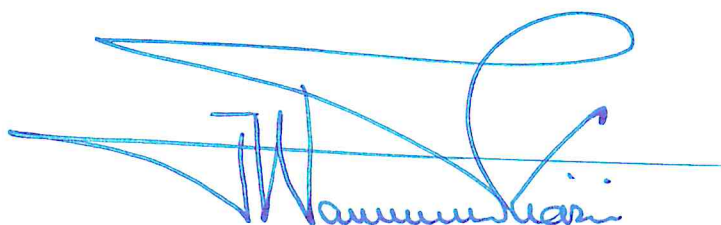
- v. That, DCI has cleared the Nominee irrespective of the deponent submitting that the nominee's suitability is compromised by ongoing investigations by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) on MultiChoice.
  - vi. That, currently there is an ongoing arbitration case in London between KBC and Channel 2 Group Corporation, entities not affiliated to the Nominee, as opposed to the deponent submission that the case exemplifies financial mismanagement by the nominee.
  - vii. That, the deponent mentions a Mr. Stephen Nyaboke and Mr. Isaac Nyaboke while referring to the nominee, Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke. Further, the Committee also notes inconsistencies in the deponent's submission on the nominee's previous employment, details of the arbitration case and investigations by the DCI. On account of this inconsistencies, the Committee resolved not to admit the memoranda.
82. That, during the vetting/approval hearing process, concerns of conflict of interest have continued to emerge. The Committee was invited to consider a precedent that was set in the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament during the nomination for appointment of Mwendu Mwinzi as Kenya's Ambassador to South Korea. The then National Assembly Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations approved the appointment of the Nominee subject to a condition that the Nominee cedes her United State citizenship. With a view to avert any potential conflict interest and relying on the aforesighted precedent, therefore, the Committee observed that the Nominee's appointment be approved subject to the condition that he be re-assigned a different State Department.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5 RECOMMENDATION

83. THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution and sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Committee recommends that the House **APPROVES** the appointment of **Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS**, as the of the Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication on the following condition-

THAT, in order to avert any potential conflict of interest with respect to the claims made during the Vetting exercise relating to part ownership of GOTV Kenya Limited, the appointing authority re-assigns the nominee a different State Department, upon taking oath of Office.

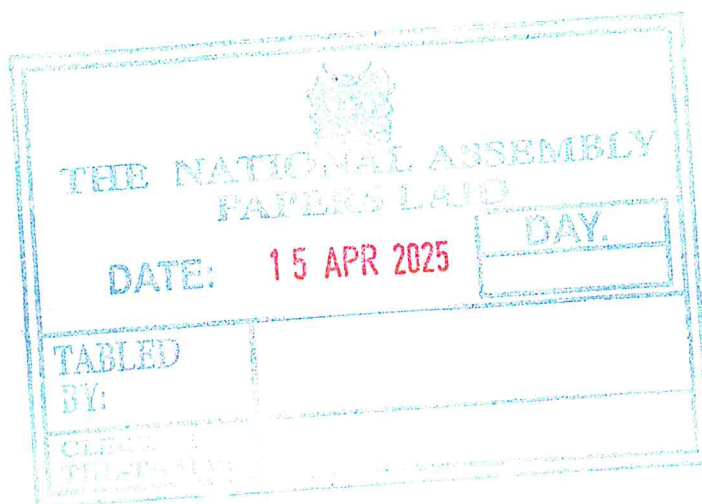


SIGNED.....DATE.....

15 APRIL 2025

HON. JOHN WAWERU KIARIE, MP  
(CHAIRPERSON)

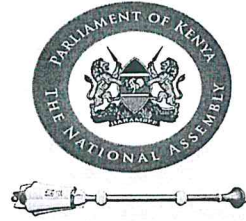
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION  
AND INNOVATION



## Annexure I: Adoption List







**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION – 2025**

**DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES**

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION AND INNOVATION**

**ADOPTION SCHEDULE**

**Report on the consideration of the Approval Hearing of Mr. Stephen Motari Isaboke, EBS the nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication**

No.	MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. John Kiarie Waweru, MP - <b>Chairperson</b>	
2.	Hon. Alfah Miruka Ondieki, MP – <b>Vice Chairperson</b>	
3.	Hon. Shakeel Shabbir Ahmed, CBS, MP	
4.	Hon. Erastus Kivasu Nzioka, MP	
5.	Hon. Joseph Kipkosgei Tonui, MP	
6.	Hon. Mark Nyamita, MP	
7.	Hon. Bensuda Joyce Atieno Osogo, MP	
8.	Hon. Bernard Kibor Kitur, MP	
9.	Hon. Gideon Kimaiyo Kipkoech, MP	
10.	Hon. Flowrence Jematiah Sergon, MP	
11.	Hon. Kakuta Maimai Hamisi, MP	
12.	Hon. Khalif Ali Abdisirat, MP	
13.	Hon. Mumina Gollo Bonaya, MP	
14.	Hon. Umulkher Harun Mohamed, MP	
15.	Hon. Wainaina Njoroge, MP	

