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

**DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT ON THE APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. MICHAEL LOIKIANU
LENASALON, NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE PRINCIPAL
SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVOLUTION**

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 15 APR 2025	
DAY: Tuesday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Peter Ochieng, MP Chairperson
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Ar. Shubuko

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

APRIL 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CS	-	Cabinet Secretary
DCI	-	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	-	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
H.E.	-	His Excellency
HELB	-	Higher Education Loans Board
KRA	-	Kenya Revenue Authority
ORPP	-	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
RDA	-	Regional Development Authorities

ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Adoption List
- Annexure 2: Minutes
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- Annexure 4: Communication from the Speaker
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report contains proceedings of the Departmental Committee on Regional Development on the approval hearing of Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon, nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution, as requested by H.E. the President and communicated to the House by the Speaker on Wednesday, 26th March 2025.

Pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution, Section 5 of the Public Appointments Parliamentary Approval Act Cap.7F 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 20th March 2025. The Hon. Speaker conveyed to the House the Message from H.E. the President and subsequently referred 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, the Speaker directed that the Committees to undertake the vetting exercise within twenty-eight (28) days pursuant to Section 8 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 adverts in two newspapers of nationwide circulation and the Parliamentary Website of the time and place of holding the approval hearings by Thursday, 27th 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 Thursday, 27th 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 Thursday, 3rd April 2025 at 5.00 p.m. (East African Time). At the close of the submission deadline, the Committee had not received any 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, 4th April 2025, for the approval hearing. The Committee examined their suitability based on the criteria set out in Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act). In addition, the Committee examined their academic credentials, relevant experience, knowledge of sector issues, leadership, and integrity.

The Committee paid due regard to the procedure used to arrive at the nominees 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 nominees 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 his suitability, observed that due process was followed in 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 appointment of Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon to the position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution.

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 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 nominees.

I acknowledge and appreciate the 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 Regional Development 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. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon, nominee for appointment as the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Devolution, for debate and adoption by the House.

**HON. PETER LOCHAKAPONG, MP
(CHAIRPERSON)**

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER ONE

1 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Departmental Committee on Regional Development 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.*

1.2 Subjects under the Committee

2. In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the Committee is mandated to oversee:
 - (a) Regional development, including regional development authorities;
 - (b) Refugee affairs;
 - (c) Devolution;
 - (d) Inclusive growth;
 - (e) Arid and semi-arid areas;
 - (f) Disaster risk management;
 - (g) Drought, famine, and disaster response; and
 - (h) Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.
3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the State Department for ASALS and Regional Development, the State Department for Devolution, and the Department of Refugee Affairs.

1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Departmental Committee on Regional Development was first constituted by the House on Thursday, 27th October 2022, and further reconstituted on 6th March 2025, and comprises of the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon Lochakapong Peter, M.P.
Sigor Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Vice Chairperson

Hon. Paul Abuor, M.P.
Rongo Constituency
Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)

Members

Hon. Sudi Oscar Kipchumba, M.P.
Kapseret Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Kalasinga Joseph Majimbo, M.P.
Kabuchai Constituency
Ford-Kenya Party

Hon. Munyoro Joseph Kamau, M.P.
Kigumo Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Maina Mwago Amos, M.P.
Starehe Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Tungule Charo Kazungu, M.P.
Ganze Constituency
Pamoja African Alliance (PAA)

Hon. Otucho Mary Emaase, M.P.
Teso South Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Basil Robert Ngui, M.P.
Yatta Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

Hon. Mawathe Julius Musili, M.P.
Embakasi South Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

Hon. Nabulindo Peter Oscar, M.P.
Matungu Constituency
Orange Democratic Movement(ODM)

Hon. Njeru Pamela Njoki, M.P.
Embu County Women Representative
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Abdi Khamis Chome, M.P.
Voi Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

Hon. CPA Geoffrey Wandeto, M.P.
Tetu Constituency
United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Umul Ker Kassim Sheikh, M.P.
Mandera County Women Representative
United Democratic Movement (UDM)

1.4 Committee Secretariat

5. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

Mr. Mohamed Boru
Clerk Assistant I/Head of Secretariat

Mr. Sisto Macharia
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Agnes Ibara
Hansard Reporter II

Mr. Moses Mwariri
Legal Counsel II

CPA. Cyrille Mutali
Fiscal Analyst II

Ms. Rose Tabuke
Research Officer III

Ms. Mwanasha Juma
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

Ms. Deborah Mupusi
Media Relations Officer II

Mr. Kelvin Lengasi
Audio Officer II

Mr. Jared Onyancha
Public Communication Officer III

CHAPTER TWO

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Legal Framework

6. Article 155 of the Constitution provides that—

- 155. (1) There is established the office of Principal Secretary, which is an office in the public service.
(2) Each State department shall be under the administration of a Principal Secretary.
(3) The President shall—
(a) nominate a person for appointment as Principal Secretary from among persons recommended by the Public Service Commission; and
(b) with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint Principal Secretaries.
(4) The President may re-assign a Principal Secretary.
(5) A Principal Secretary may resign from office by giving notice, in writing, to the President.*

7. In light of this, H.E. the President nominated fourteen (14) persons for appointment as Principal Secretaries to various State Departments. The President nominated Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon, nominee for the Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution.

8. The Departmental Committee on Regional Development has been assigned the role of conducting the vetting of the aforesaid nominee.

9. The following Articles of the Constitution and statutes/provisions will be paramount to the Committee as it executes this mandate:

- i. The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F;
- ii. The Public Service Commission Act Cap.185 on recommendation for appointment of Principal Secretaries;
- iii. Article 10 of the Constitution on the national values and principles of governance;
- iv. Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity;
- v. Article 77 of the Constitution on restriction on activities of State Officers;
- vi. Article 78 of the Constitution on dual citizenship;
- vii. Article 118 of the Constitution on public participation;
- viii. Article 232 of the Constitution on values and principles of public service;
- ix. The Leadership and Integrity Act (Cap. 185C);
- x. The Public Service (Values and Principles) Act Cap.185A; and
- xi. The Public Officer Ethics Act (Cap. 183).

The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F

10. Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F, provides for issues which the relevant House of Parliament (in this case, the National Assembly) is supposed to consider in relation to any nomination. These issues include:

- i. the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;*
- ii. any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and*
- iii. 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.*

11. During the approval hearing, section 6 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F provides—
- i. An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background;
 - ii. The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate;
 - iii. 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;
 - iv. A candidate may, at any time, by notice in writing addressed to the Clerk, withdraw from the approval process and the candidate's nomination shall end.

The Public Service Commission Act Cap.185A

12. Section 47 (2) of the Public Service Commission Act Cap.185A provides qualifications that one must have so as to be eligible for appointment as a Principal Secretary. These are:
- i. be a citizen of Kenya;
 - ii. hold a degree from a university recognised in Kenya;
 - iii. has at least ten (10) years relevant professional experience, five (5) years of which should have been in a leadership position or at a top management level in the public service or private sector;
 - iv. possess general knowledge of the organisation and functions of Government;
 - v. demonstrates an understanding of the goals, policies and developmental objectives of the nation;
 - vi. has demonstrable leadership and management capacity including knowledge of financial management and strategic people management; and
 - vii. meets requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

Article 10(2) of the Constitution on national values and principles of governance

13. Article 10(2) of the Constitution provides for the national values and principles of governance which 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 marginalised; good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; and sustainable development.

Chapter 6 of the Constitution (Leadership and Integrity)

14. There are important provisions in Chapter 6 of the Constitution worth pointing out. Article 73 of the Constitution provides that the authority assigned to a State officer (a Principal Secretary being a state officer under Article 260 of the Constitution) is a public trust to be exercised in accordance to the Constitution, demonstrate respect for the people, bring honour to the nation and dignity to the office and promote public confidence in the integrity of the office. Also, the State officer shall have the responsibility to serve the people, rather than the power to rule them.
15. The guiding principles of leadership and integrity are listed as selection based on personal integrity, competence and suitability, objectivity and impartiality in decision making, selfless service based solely on the public interest, accountability and discipline and commitment in service to the people.

Article 77 of the Constitution (Restriction on activities of State officers)

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

Article 78 of the Constitution on citizenship and leadership

17. Article 78 of the Constitution states that a person is not eligible for election or appointment to a State office unless the person is a citizen of Kenya. It also provides that a State Officer or a member of the Defence Forces shall not hold dual citizenship.

Article 118 of the Constitution on public access and participation

18. Article 118 of the Constitution provides that—

1. *Parliament shall:*
 - a) *conduct its business in an open manner, and its sittings and those of its committees shall be in public; and*
 - b) *facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees.*
2. *Parliament may not exclude the public, or any media, from any sitting unless in exceptional circumstances the relevant Speaker has determined that there are justifiable reasons for the exclusion.*

Article 232 of the Constitution on Values and Principles of Public Service

19. Article 232 of the Constitution provides for the values and principles of public service which include 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; the members of all ethnic groups; and persons with disabilities.

The Leadership and Integrity Act Cap. 185C

20. The Leadership and Integrity Act provides a number of obligations to a State officer. These are, among others: to respect and abide by the Constitution and the law, public trust, performance of duties in an honest and accountable manner, professionalism, financial integrity, not to engage in activities that amount to abuse of office, not misuse public resources, accepting gifts that may compromise the officer's duties, wrongful or unlawful acquisition of property or conflict of interest.

The Public Service (Values and Principles) Act Cap.185A

21. Section 5 of the Public Service (Values and Principles) Act provides that a public officer shall maintain high standards of professional ethics, including, being honest; displaying high standards of integrity, transparency, accountability, respect to others, objectivity, patriotism, observance of rule of law.

The Public Officer Ethics Act Cap. 185B

22. The Public Officer Ethics Act provides for obligations to be carried out by a public officer. These include professionalism, carrying out duties in accordance with the law, prohibition from unjust enrichment, avoiding conflict of interest, not using office as a venue for soliciting or collecting harambees; not acting for foreigners; care of property; political neutrality, not practicing nepotism or favouritism, giving impartial advice, conducting private affairs in a way that maintains public confidence, bar from sexual harassment, submission of declaration of income, assets and liabilities once every two years (section 26). (Applies in future after appointment)

2.2 Qualifications for appointment as Principal Secretary

23. In conducting the approval hearings, the Committee was guided by Article 155 (3) (b) of the Constitution, section 47 (2) of the Public Service Act and the provisions of Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F

2.3 Message from H.E. the President

24. H.E. the President on **20th March 2025** communicated the names of the nominees for appointment to the position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution to the Speaker for approval by the National Assembly pursuant to Article 155(3). The Speaker in his communication from the Chair issued on **Wednesday, 26th March 2025** and pursuant to Standing Order No. 42 referred the name to the Departmental Committee on Regional Development to conduct approval hearings and report within twenty-eight (28) days.

2.4 Speaker's Communication and Committal to the Committee

25. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 42, the Speaker of the National Assembly on **Wednesday, 26th March 2025** communicated to the House the message from H.E. the President regarding the nominees for appointment as Principal Secretaries for various State Departments. The Speaker informed the House that H.E. the President was seeking approval of the National Assembly on the said nominations before the nominees' appointment.
26. In accordance with Standing Order 45(1), the Speaker read the Message from H.E. the President and referred the names of the nominees, their curricula vitae and report of the Public Service Commission on the recruitment process to the Departmental Committee on Regional Development to conduct approval hearings.
27. While referring the matter to the Committee, the Speaker directed that the Committee undertakes the vetting exercise within twenty-eight (28) days pursuant to Section 8 of the Public Appointments Parliamentary Approval Act (No. 33 of 2011). The Speaker further directed the Clerk of the National Assembly to notify the nominees and the general public by placing adverts in two newspapers of nationwide circulation and the Parliamentary Website of the time and place of holding the approval hearings by **Thursday, 27th March 2025**.
28. In addition, the Speaker directed that approval hearings should commence immediately and thereafter, the reports to be tabled in the House not later than Tuesday, 22nd April, 2025 so as to enable the House to consider the reports within the statutory timelines.

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 **Friday, 28th 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, 3rd April 2025 at 5.00 pm (East African Time)**. At the close of the submission deadline, the Committee had not received any memorandum for or against 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 **Friday, 28th March 2025** and letters **Ref. NA/DDC/RD/2025/007** informed the nominee of the nomination by H.E. the President and requested him to appear for vetting before the Departmental Committee on Regional Development on **Friday, 4th April 2025**. The Clerk of the National Assembly further requested the nominee to bring 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.
33. The following institutions wrote back to the National Assembly, clearing the nominees, KRA (letter Ref. KRA/5/1002/5(12219) dated 8th April 2025; DCI (letter Ref. DCI/CRO/SEC/6/7/2/A/VOL.XVI/91 dated 2nd April, 2025); EACC (letter Ref: EACC.7/10/5 VOL XXXI (63) dated 4th April 2025); HELB (letter Ref. HELB/RR/112009/V/378 dated 2nd April 2025); and ORPP (letter Ref: RPP/ORG/34 VOL. VIII (70) dated 2nd April 2025).

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

34. 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, Kenya Gazette No. 10536 and on the Commission's Website on 20th November 2024 with a closing date of 4th December 2024.

35. The advertisement period lapsed on 4th December 2024 with a total of Two Thousand Five Hundred and Seventeen (2,517) persons submitting applications for consideration.
36. One Hundred and Nine (109) candidates were shortlisted and the names published in the print media and on the Commission website on Friday, 10th January 2025. The interview schedule, indicating the date and time of the interviews, was published on the Commission website on 20th January 2025.
37. Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon was included on the published list of shortlisted candidates, and the interviews were conducted by the Public Service Commission from 27th to 31st January 2025.
38. 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

39. 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.
40. The Committee held three (3) Sittings during which it examined and reviewed the nominees' certificates, testimonials, conducted approval hearing, and adopted the report on the hearing.

CHAPTER THREE

3 APPROVAL HEARING

41. The Committee conducted approval hearings for the nominee on **Friday, 4th 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.
42. The Committee examined the nominees using the guidelines in the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F. The Committee also considered the following in vetting the nominee:
- 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. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon – Nominee for the Position of Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution

Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon was orally interviewed by the Committee and responded to questions during vetting as follows—

3.1.1 Personal Background

43. Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon is a Kenyan citizen of Identity Card number 26629462 and was born in Samburu County in 2nd April 1989.

3.1.2 Educational Background

44. The nominee holds a Master's Degree in Forensic Computing & Cybercrime Investigations, from University College Dublin, Ireland (2018 – 2020) and a Bachelor's Degree in Software Engineering from Kenyatta University (2008 - 2012). He has attended various Management and International Leadership courses.
45. He sat for his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination at Mary Mother of Grace Secondary School, Rumuruti in 2006.

3.1.3 Work experience/ career progression

46. The nominee was, until the time of nomination, working as a Senior Investigations Officer at the Kenya Revenue Authority.
47. The nominee has also worked in the following capacities:
- i. Procurement and ICT officer – Elbarta Children and Family Programme (under ChildFund Kenya) 2012 - 2015; and

- ii. Investigations officer- Fraud Investigations, Kenya Revenue Authority (2016 – 2018).
48. He has knowledge and experience in Community leadership, governance, communication, technical expertise, stakeholder engagement, and excellent reporting.

3.1.4 Net worth

49. The nominee informed the Committee that he is worth approximately **Kshs. 28 million**. The source of his wealth was from salaries earned while being employed at the Kenya Revenue Authority, shares at Ushuru Sacco, land in Kitengela and Samburu County, livestock, and a retail business.

3.1.5 Professional Associations & Affiliations

50. The Nominee is affiliated with the following organizations and associations:
- i. Member Board of Directors – Samburu Water and Sanitation Company (2015 to 2017);
 - ii. Member Board of Trustees – The Samburu Development Trust – TSDT (2021 to date);
 - iii. Member and Secretary to the Samburu Professionals (SPA) – 2023 to date; and
 - iv. Chairperson of the Loonjorin-Ejuk Community Land – 2024 to date;
 - v. Member of Kenya Cybersecurity and Forensics Association (KCSFA); and
 - vi. Associate Certified Fraud Examiner (ACFE).

3.1.6 Courses Attended

51. The nominee has attended the following professional and leadership courses:
- i. Data Analysis and Data Modeling;
 - ii. Data extraction from digital sources (Digital Forensics);
 - iii. Open Source Intelligence (OSINT);
 - iv. Database administration;
 - v. Malware Analysis reverse engineering;
 - vi. Course on Supervisory Skills;
 - vii. Course on Excellence in Customer Service;
 - viii. Course on Basic Fraud Investigation Training;
 - ix. Leadership and Governance Training;
 - x. Python for Data Science;
 - xi. Course on Advanced Excel; and
 - xii. Basic Intelligence Course.

3.1.7 Clearance Requirements

52. 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

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

On Intergovernmental Relations

54. The nominee acknowledged that the technical committee must identify overlapping functions in order to transfer resources, including human resources, to the relevant bodies.
55. He stated that he will be guided by the Intergovernmental Relations Act Cap.265F, and further stated that he will ensure better and enhanced coordination of policies between the national and county governments.

On Strategic Vision

56. The nominee expounded on his vision to strengthen the decentralization process, ensuring that devolved governance enhances service delivery to the grassroots level. He indicated his aim is to improve the capacity of county governments to fulfill their mandates effectively, promote inclusive and sustainable development, and ensure that all Kenyans benefit from devolution. The nominee stated that this will be achieved through targeted capacity building, resource optimization, and fostering collaboration between the national and county governments to address the specific needs of each region.
57. The nominee also indicated that development partners' roles will be central in leveraging external resources and expertise effectively. He stated that this will be achieved by establishing clear communication channels with key partners, including bilateral and multilateral organizations, to align their priorities with Kenya's devolved development objectives.

On Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks

58. The nominee outlined his vision for ensuring that policy and legislative frameworks for devolution remain effective and relevant. He proposed the regular review of existing laws and policies in light of emerging challenges and opportunities at both the national and county levels. He further indicated that he would promote a consultative process involving key stakeholders, including county governments.
59. The nominee outlined his approach in ensuring that policy and legislative frameworks for devolution remain effective and relevant would be to regularly review existing laws and policies in light of emerging challenges and opportunities at both the national and county levels.

On Funding for Counties

60. The nominee underscored the importance of strengthening county revenue collection systems, allowing them to generate additional funds locally. He stated that he would encourage the timely disbursement of funds and promote the implementation of sound financial management practices at the county level to ensure that available resources are used efficiently and effectively. The nominee further acknowledged the significance of ensuring equity in the distribution of funds in order to address regional disparities.
61. The nominee addressed the matter of mismanagement or misuse of county funds by stating that he would prioritize the implementation of stringent financial oversight mechanisms. This would include strengthening internal controls within county governments and ensuring that there are independent auditing and accountability systems in place.

On Civic Education

62. The nominee emphasized the need to make public participation a key part of his policies to ensure that the general public understands the mandates of devolution.

On Youth Policy in Counties

63. The nominee emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate public participation in all youth-related policies. He outlined plans to equip youth affairs programs with sufficient resources to fulfill their mandate and to implement performance-based accountability for youth funds to ensure their full utilization.

On the Proposed Dissolution and Divestiture of Regional Development Authorities

64. The nominee stated that the Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) are being aligned with the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution on the functions of the national and county governments.
65. He explained that the dissolution of RDAs will be carried out in a structured manner with a view to minimizing financial losses, loss of jobs. To continue the important cross-county functions that RDAs carried out across the country, the nominee stated that he would support inter-county collaboration through regional blocks. He acknowledged that such regional blocks can play the role of RDAs.

On Handling Disputes Between County Governments

66. To resolve disputes between county governments, the nominee stated that his priority would be to foster dialogue and mediation between the parties involved. He emphasized the importance of establishing a structured and impartial conflict resolution mechanism, possibly under the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC). Additionally, he advocated for the use of negotiation and arbitration over litigation as methods of finding common ground.

On his Motivation to take up the Appointment

67. The nominee indicated that the opportunity to serve as a Principal Secretary would enable him to address policy matters, enhance his leadership skills, and contribute directly to the continued growth and success of devolution in Kenya. He also noted that the motivation stems from a belief that devolution is essential for addressing regional inequalities, improving service delivery, and enhancing democratic participation at the grassroots level.

On his Priorities as the Principal Secretary for Devolution

68. The nominee stated that he would strengthen Intergovernmental Relations, noting that building stronger communication and cooperation between national and county governments is essential for effective governance and service delivery.
69. Further, he would strengthen county institutions by providing training, technical support, and tools to improve service delivery.

On Steps to take to ensure Marginalized Regions Benefit from Devolution

70. The nominee stated that he would establish regular community engagement forums where citizens from marginalized regions can express their concerns, propose solutions, and provide feedback on policies. This will ensure that their voices are included in governance and development processes.
71. The nominee noted that automating key county functions, such as revenue collection, would significantly improve resource management.

On Addressing Challenges in Devolution

72. The nominee acknowledged that inadequate funding is the main challenge facing devolution, limiting counties' ability to deliver services. He proposed working with the

National Treasury to ensure equitable resource distribution and advocate for increased funding, particularly for marginalized counties.

On Corruption in the Counties and Accountability on Own Source Revenue Collection

73. The nominee stated he would propose the digitization of own-source revenue collection to close existing loopholes and further ensure public participation in the utilization of county resources.

On Overemployment in the Counties Occasioned by Political Interference

74. The nominee emphasized the need to make County Public Service Boards independent, free from political interference, to effectively address the issue of political interference by the County Executive.

CHAPTER FOUR

4 OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

75. The Committee's 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 nominees;
- 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.

76. 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 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 did not receive any memorandum contesting the suitability of the nominee.

77. The Committee further observed that—

- i. The nominee holds a Bachelor of Software Engineering from Kenyatta University (2008 - 2012). He therefore meets the requirements of Section 47(2)(ii) of the Public Service Commission Act, Cap. 185;
- ii. The nominee has been a Senior Investigation Officer for seven years, as well as holding leadership positions in community organizations, including serving as a Member Board of Directors – Samburu Water and Sanitation Company (2015 to 2017), Member Board of Trustees – The Samburu Development Trust – TSDT (2021 to date), Member and Secretary to the Samburu Professionals (SPA) – 2023 to date and elected the Chairperson of the Loonjorin-Ejuk Community Land – 2024 to date. He has therefore been in leadership positions for more than five (5) years as required by section 47(2) (iii) of the Public Service Act, Cap.185;
- iii. The Committee observed that the nominee had vast experience in governance, strategic planning, tax administration, data analysis, data modeling, data extraction, fraud investigations, community mobilization, and management of resources, including community development projects.

- iv. Further, the Committee observed that the nominee's responses to the Committee's questions demonstrated a clear understanding of Kenya's devolution sector. His vision for reform and innovation is centered on improving intergovernmental relations, strategic partnerships, leveraging technology to enhance own-source revenue in counties, public participation, and strengthening regional economic blocks in counties.
- v. The Committee observed that the nominee demonstrated an understanding of the mandate of the State Department for Devolution and operations in the public sector.
- vi. According to the information and records presented to the Committee, the nominee had never been implicated in any issues that may lead to a lack of integrity.

CHAPTER FIVE

5 RECOMMENDATION

78. Pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8(2) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap.7F and Standing Orders 45 and 216, the Committee recommends that the National Assembly **APPROVES** the appointment of **Mr. Michael Loikianu Lenasalon** for the position of **Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution**.

SIGNED.....



DATE.....

15/4/2025

HON. PETER LOCHAKAPONG, MP
(CHAIRPERSON)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

