Approved SNA 10/4/25

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION – 2025

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

.....

REPORT ON THE APPROVAL HEARINGS OF:

1. CPA CARREN ACHIENG AGENG'O, NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN WELFARE SERVICES, AND

2. MR. FIKIRINI JACOBS KATOI KAHINDI, NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

APRIL 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CPA	-	Certified Public Accountant
DCI	-	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	-	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
H.E.	-	His Excellency
HELB	-	Higher Education Loans Board
KRA	-	Kenya Revenue Authority
NYOTA	-	National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement
ORPP	-	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
PAPAA	-	Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act
PS	-	Principal Secretary
PSC	-	Public Service Commission
VIVA	-	Vijana Vuka Na Afya Project

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report highlights the proceedings of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection on approval hearings of CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o, nominee for appointment as the Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Welfare Services and Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi, nominee for appointment as the Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, as sought by H.E. the President and communicated to the National Assembly by the Honourable Speaker on Wednesday, 26th March 2025.

Pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution, Section 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011) 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 vide a communication made on Wednesday, 26th March 2025 conveyed to the House the Message from H.E. the President and subsequently referred the names of the nominees, their curricula vitae, and the report of the Public Service Commission on their recruitment to various 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 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 on 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 (No. 33 of 2011), 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 further invited the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath *(affidavit)* on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees in conformity with section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011). 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 memorandum for or against any nominee's suitability.

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), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the relevant Universities seeking references and background checks relating to the suitability of the nominees.

The nominees appeared before the Committee on Friday, 4th April 2025 for vetting. The Committee examined their suitability based on the criteria set out in Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011). In addition, the Committee examined their academic credentials, relevant experience, knowledge of sector issues, as well as on leadership and integrity. The Committee paid due regard to the procedure used to arrive at the nominees; 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 met the needs of the State Departments.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee having held approval hearings of the nominees regarding their suitability, observed that due process was followed on the recruitment as provided for under Article 155(3) (b) of the Constitution and section 8(2) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval Act) (No. 33 of 2011). The Committee, having undertook extensive and thorough vetting of the nominees, therefore recommends that the National Assembly **APPROVES** the nomination of CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Welfare Services, and also **APPROVES** the nomination of Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy.

Acknowledgements

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

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

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 Social Protection, and pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011) 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 CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o, nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for the State Department of Children Welfare Services and Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi, nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, for debate and adoption by the House.

08/04/2025

The Hon. Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a, CBS, MP.
Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Social Protection

CHAPTER ONE

1 PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Departmental Committee on Social Protection is one of the Twenty 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 consider social welfare and security, pension matters, gender affairs, equality and affirmative action, affairs of children, youth, persons with disability and senior citizens.

3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, the Ministry of Public Service; Ministry of Gender and Affirmative Action, and the National Gender and Equality Commission.

1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Departmental Committee on Social Protection was constituted by the House on 27th October 2022 and comprises of the following Members:

Chairperson
Hon. Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a, CBS, MP
Thika Town Constituency
UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Hillary Kiplang'at Koskei, MP
Kipkelion West Constituency
UDA Party

Members

Hon. Faith Wairimu Gitau, CBS, M.P
Nyandarua County
UDA PARTY

Hon. Owen Baya Yaa, CBS, M.P.
Kilifi North Constituency
UDA PARTY

Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi Wetangula, CBS, M.P.
Westlands Constituency
ODM PARTY

Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.
Kitui West Constituency
WDM-K PARTY

Hon. Samuel Moroto Chumel, CBS, M.P.
Kapenguria Constituency
UDA PARTY

Hon. Paul Abuor, M.P.
Rongo Constituency
ODM PARTY

Hon. James Onyango Oyoo, M.P.
Muhoroni Constituency
ODM PARTY

Hon. Susan Nduyo Ngugi, M.P.
Tharaka Nithi County
TSP PARTY

Hon. Hussein Abdi Barre, M.P.
Tarbaj Constituency
UDA PARTY

Hon. Agnes Mantaine Pareiyo, M.P.
Narok North Constituency
JUBILEE PARTY

Hon. Amina Abdullahi Dika, M.P.
Tana River County
KANU PARTY

Hon. Linet Chepkorir, M.P.
Bomet County
UDA PARTY

Hon. Zamzam Mohamed Chimba, M.P.
Mombasa County
ODM PARTY

1.4 Committee Secretariat

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

Mr. Finlay Muriuki

Lead Clerk/ Head of Secretariat

Mr. Ahmednoor Hassan
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Jemimah Waigwa
Senior Legal Counsel

Mr. Adan Ahmed Abdi
Fiscal Analyst I

Ms. Grace Maneno
Research Officer III

Mr. Benjamin Ochutsi
Hansard Officer III

Ms. Naomi Onsomu
Public Communications Officer

Mr. Derrick Kathurima
Media Relations Officer

Mr. Cosmas Akhonya
Audio Recording Officer

Ms. Eva Kaare
Serjeant-at-Arms

Ms. Fiona Musili
Research Officer

CHAPTER TWO

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Legal Framework

6. The office of the Principal Secretary is established pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution. It 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. Pursuant to the said provision, H.E. the President nominated fourteen (14) persons for appointment as Principal Secretaries to various State Departments. Among them, H.E. the President nominated the following persons for appointment as Principal Secretaries:
   i. CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o: Nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary, Children Welfare Services; and
   ii. Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi: Nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary, Youth Affairs and Creative Economy.

8. The Departmental Committee on Social Protection was assigned the role of conducting the vetting of the two nominees.

9. The legal framework the Committee made reference to in its vetting exercise included:
   i. Article 10 of the Constitution on the national values and principles of governance;
   ii. Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity;
   iii. Article 77 of the Constitution on restriction on activities of State Officers;
   iv. Article 78 of the Constitution on dual citizenship;
   v. Article 118 of the Constitution on public participation;
   vi. Article 232 of the Constitution on values and principles of public service;
   vii. The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011);
   viii. The Public Service Commission Act (No. 10 of 2017) on recommendation for appointment of Principal Secretaries
   ix. The Leadership and Integrity Act (Cap. 182);
   x. The Public Service (Values and Principles) Act (No. 1A of 2015); and
   xi. The Public Officer Ethics Act (Cap. 183).

The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011)

10. Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), 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 (No. 33 of 2011) provided important points, viz:
    i. An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background (section 6(7), PAPAA);
    ii. The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate (section 6(8), PAPAA);
    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 (section 6(9), PAPAA); and
    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 (section 6(10), PAPAA).

The Public Service Commission Act (No. 10 of 2017)

12. Section 47 (2) of the Public Service Commission Act (No. 10 of 2017) 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 sual 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. 182)

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, conflict of interest e.t.c.

The Public Service (Values and Principles) Act

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. (Applies in future upon appointment)

The Public Officer Ethics Act (Cap. 183)

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 Commission Act, and the provisions of Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011).

2.3 Message from H.E. the President

24. H.E. the President on **Thursday, 20th March 2025** communicated the names of fourteen nominees for appointment to the positions of Principal Secretary to the Speaker for approval by the National Assembly pursuant to Article 155 (3). The Speaker in his communication to the National Assembly on **Wednesday, 26th March 2025** and pursuant to Standing Order No. 42 referred the names to relevant Departmental Committees to conduct approval hearings and report within twenty-eight (28) days.

2.4 Speaker's Communication and Committal to the Committee

25. In accordance with Standing Order 45(1), the Speaker read the Message from H.E. the President and referred the names of the aforementioned two nominees, their curricula vitae and report of the Public Service Commission on the recruitment process to the Departmental Committee on Social Protection to conduct approval hearings.

26. While referring the matter to the Committees, the Speaker directed that the Committees 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.

2.5 Notification to the Public

27. Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), 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"*.
28. The Clerk of the National Assembly on **Thursday, 27th 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 (No. 33 of 2011), 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 any of the nominees.

2.6 Notification to the Nominee

29. The Clerk of the National Assembly vide an advert placed in the print media on Thursday, 27th March 2025 and letters Ref. NA/DDC/SP/CORR/2025/011 and Ref. NA/DDC/SP/CORR/2025/012 informed the nominees of the nomination by H.E. the President and requested them to appear for vetting by the Departmental Committee on Social Protection on **Friday, 4th April 2025** in *Bunge Tower, 5th Floor, Committee Room 26.* The Clerk of the National Assembly further requested the nominees to bring with them their 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

30. 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), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), relevant Universities requesting for tax, education loans, integrity, affiliation to political parties, criminal record status of the nominees as well as credibility of their tertiary education certificates.

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

31. 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.

32. 2,517 candidates were shortlisted from 20th November to 4th December 2024 and a further review done on 11th December 2024 that brought the shortlist to 109 candidates in an exercise that had due regard for gender, marginalised/minority groups and PWDs pursuant to Article 232(1)(h) of the Constitution. Interviews for the shortlisted persons were conducted from 27th to 31st January 2025.

33. CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o was number 52 while Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi was number 51 on the published list of shortlisted candidates as ranked by the Public Service Commission.

34. The Public Service Commission had adhered to all provisions of the Constitution in the process of advertising, shortlisting and interviewing the candidates in a process that had due regard for merit, gender, ethnic and regional balance.

2.9 Committee proceedings

35. The Committee, having received the names of the nominees, was obligated to conduct approval hearings and make determination of the nominees' suitability or otherwise within twenty-eight (28) days as provided for in section 8(1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011).

36. The Committee held two (2) sittings during which it examined and reviewed the nominees' certificates, testimonials as well as conducted approval hearings.

CHAPTER THREE

3 APPROVAL HEARINGS

37. The Committee conducted approval hearings for the nominees on **Friday, 4th April 2025**. In conducting the vetting exercise, the Committee was guided by, among others, the Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), the Public Service Act and the National Assembly Standing Orders.

38. The Committee examined the nominees pursuant to the provisions and guidelines in the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011). The Committee also considered the following in vetting the nominees:
    a. Academic qualifications
    b. Employment record and work experience
    c. Professional association
    d. Public office, political activities and affiliations
    e. Potential conflict of interest
    f. Suitability to the position
    g. Tax compliance
    h. Vision and leadership
    i. Integrity
    j. Expectations and Key priorities

3.1 CPA CARREN ACHIENG AGENG'O

CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o was orally interviewed by the Committee on 4th April 2025 in Bunge Tower, 5th Floor, Committee Room 26, and responded to questions during vetting as follows:

3.1.1 Personal Background

39. The nominee is a Kenyan citizen of ID number 13235213 and was born in Kisumu County on 18th October, 1974.

3.1.2 Educational Background

40. The nominee holds Diploma in Organizational Leadership from Harvard Business School (2024), a Master of Business Administration (MBA Executive) from Moi University (2006) and a Bachelor of Education (Mathematics and Accounting) from the University of Nairobi (1998).

3.1.3 Work experience/career progression

41. CPA Carren has worked in the public sector, specifically with the Kenya Revenue Authority from 2002 to present.

3.1.5 Net worth

42. The Nominee indicated that she had an estimated net worth of Kshs. 48.7 million, which comprises a Pension from the KRA Pension scheme of Kshs. 13,415,255, SACCO Shares less SACCO loans of

Kshs. 2.4M, Household effects, Motor Vehicle and Property, amounting to Kshs. 30.4m and other Bank Loans amounting to Kshs. 2.5m.

3.1.5 Clearance

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

3.1.6 *On Potential Conflict of Interest*

44. The nominee stated that she did not have any family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation or financial arrangements that are likely to present a potential conflict of interest when she first assumes the position to which she had been nominated.

3.1.7 On how her educational and professional background had prepared her for the role in Public Service

45. The nominee recounted her studies at the University of Nairobi, where she acquired her Bachelor's Degree in Education, specializing in Mathematics and Accounting, as well as an MBA in Finance and other professional advancements, including CPA-K and leadership training through the Kenya School of Government and Harvard Business School based in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America. She believed that she had acquired the necessary training for the role of a Principal Secretary, to which she had been nominated. She added that, over the 23 years she had been an employee at the Kenya Revenue Authority, she had gained experience in public service and leadership.

3.1.9 On innovative ideas she would bring to the State Department

46. The nominee stated that she was passionate about matters concerning children and noted that children need protection, love and care. If approved, she would ensure that the rights of Kenyan children as provided for by the Constitution were protected and adhered to.

3.2.0 On her background in Mathematics

47. The nominee stated that Mathematics was one aspect of her training which had equipped her with problem-solving skills. She affirmed that she was passionate and had experience working with both adults and children. If approved for the appointment, she would utilize her negotiating skills to secure funds for handling children's matters. Additionally, she would collaborate with other employees and resource persons in the State Department to ensure that matters of children are addressed effectively.

3.2.1 On her experience with children's welfare matters

48. The nominee stated that she had prior engagement with the Child Welfare Society of Kenya and had assessed areas where she could bring support to the society, which was supporting thousands of children countrywide. If approved, she would engage with the relevant Parliamentary Committee and the Treasury to ensure that children's matters are effectively funded.
49. She added that, during her service at the Kenya Revenue Authority, she had the opportunity to engage with various government agencies and would therefore utilize her networks to collaborate with these entities to ensure that issues affecting children are accorded priority and the seriousness they deserve.

3.2.2 On how she would ensure full implementation of Children Act, 2022

50. The nominee reiterated that the Children Act, 2022 sought to give effect to Article 53 of the Constitution. She added that the Act outlined various rights of Children, including the right to identity, which requires children to be registered at birth. If approved, she would ensure that all children are registered at birth, allowing them to access education and healthcare.
51. She added that, if approved, she would ensure that access to education, as a right under the Children Act, is implemented. She noted that in marginalized communities, many children are engaged in child labour and early marriages. She would propose awareness campaigns in these communities to ensure children get access to education.

3.2.3 On what strategies she would use to ensure children are registered

52. The nominee stated that she would utilize the broad network of government administration through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration. She noted that she would propose awareness campaigns, both through physical and social media platforms, and additionally collaborate with chiefs to sensitize people, especially those in the marginalised areas, to identify children who were not registered, those engaged in child labour and those in early marriages.

3.2.4 On the challenges faced by the Child Welfare Society of Kenya and what strategy she would put in place to resolve them.

53. The nominee noted that one of the issues faced by the Society was a lack of sufficient funding coupled by the recent pronouncement to declassify and defund the institution. She said that the Society had initiated very impactful projects for the care of children, but there has been a dire need for funding. If approved, the nominee stated that she would support the Society by mobilizing funds

through engagements with Parliament and the National Treasury to ensure that the projects are completed.

54. In addition, the nominee noted that education was a fundamental right and would appeal for the Presidential Bursary Program to be extended to children who were beneficiaries of the Child Welfare Society of Kenya, to ensure continuity of their education. If approved for appointment, she would further engage partners to mobilise funds to pay school fees for the children.

55. With regard to the intended declassifying and defunding of the Child Welfare Society of Kenya, she undertook to expedite the ongoing negotiations to reinstate the funding if approved.

3.2.5 On protection of children from regressive cultural practices in line with the National Children's Policy of Kenya 2010

56. The nominee stated that there was a need to sensitize communities against regressive cultural practices. She undertook to ensure implementation of the law and the penalties thereof to discourage the perpetrators of practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages.

57. In addition, she would create awareness on the channels available to expose such vices and retrogressive practices, including utility of the 611hotline used to report cases of FGM and utilize the rescue centres in constituencies to support the victims and give them a chance to continue their education.

3.2.6 On how she would ensure accountability and prudent utilization of the scarce resources

58. The nominee stated that she would ensure that available funds were channelled to the critical and priority areas of need. This would include reallocating funds to ensure that the critical areas are adequately catered for. She would also put in place systems to ensure there is no duplication of roles and wastage of resources.

3.2.7 On the implementation of Article 15 and 16 of the African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child

59. The nominee stated that the African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child provided for the rights of children to protection against child labour, child abuse and torture. She noted that failure to register children at birth, as well as poverty, contributed to a violation of these rights. If approved, she would ensure strict adherence to the law and provision of social protection services to the vulnerable.

3.2 MR. FIKIRINI JACOBS KATOI KAHINDI

Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi was orally interviewed by the Committee on 4th April 2025 in Bunge Tower, 5th Floor, Committee Room 26, and responded to questions during vetting as follows:

3.2.1 Personal Background

60. Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi is a Kenyan Citizen of ID number 33271223 and was born in Kilifi County on 27th June 1994.

3.2.2 Educational Background

61. Mr. Fikirini Jacobs holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Pwani University. He is currently pursuing Masters of Philosophy at Pwani University, and was at the Research Proposal Writing stage of the coursework.

3.2.3 Work experience/career progression

62. The nominee has served as Director of the Governor's Delivery Unit, County Government of Kilifi, from May 2023 to date, and as Coordinator, Ganze Sub-County Office of the Senator, Kilifi County (Parliamentary Service Commission) from 2018 to 2022.

3.2.4 Net worth

63. The nominee indicated that he had a net worth of approximately Kshs. 12 million.

3.2.5 On his Background and Vision for the State Department

64. The Nominee informed the Committee that his Degree in Philosophy equipped him with critical skills to deal with the ever-changing social dynamics. As a student leader at University and the Director of the Governor's Delivery Unit for Kilifi County, he was able to learn and understand the challenges faced by young people. Through the Office of the Governor of Kilifi County, he developed Youth Projects that have improved the lives of the youth in Kilifi County.
65. If approved, the nominee indicated that he would seek to create a safe space for the young people to ventilate their views and ensure full participation of the youth in addressing their concerns. He envisioned a Government that adopts a youth-centric approach in implementing programs for young people.

3.2.5 On Drug and Substance Abuse

66. He acknowledged that drug abuse among the youth was a menace that was contributing to unproductivity among the youth. He proposed that, if approved, he would implement a two-way approach, combining preventive and rehabilitative measures. He would use the existing youth

projects, VIVA and NYOTA, and further seek to have the subject of drug use in the education curriculum to ensure sensitization against drugs is done from all levels of education. On rehabilitation, he would collaborate with NACADA and other non-governmental organizations to make rehabilitation programs accessible, as well as keep youths engaged in productive activities through the Youth Empowerment Centres, which he aimed to establish in every constituency.

3.2.7 *On challenges in accessing the Youth Development Fund by the Youths*

67. The nominee informed the Committee that he had previously experienced the similar challenges occasioned by the stringent collateral and other requirements. He noted that it was not only a challenge to the Youth Development Fund but also to the Women's Enterprise Fund. If approved, he would seek an audience with the relevant stakeholders to find a way to make the requirements attainable in order to enable youths to benefit from the funds.

3.2.8 On the implementation of the Kenya Youth Development Policy

68. The nominee emphasised the importance of involving youth in sustainable development, noting that they held the country's future. If approved, he would seek to engage youth through government projects and non-governmental organizations to empower them to take part in peacekeeping and sustainable development.

3.2.9 On the rising number of unemployed youths

69. The nominee stated that he would be guided by the fifth pillar of the fourth Medium-Term Plan to utilize the digital superhighway and creative economy to create opportunities for the youth. If approved, he would propose certification of prior learning for skilled young people and encourage them to explore opportunities in the blue economy sector.
70. In addition, if approved, he would ensure a coordinated approach to programs by the Government as well as non-governmental organizations to create a common platform, further advance the youth agenda, and enable them to become creators of employment opportunities.

3.3.0 On harnessing youth voices in government affairs

71. The nominee informed the Committee that, if approved, he would ensure effective communication of government strategies to keep the youth informed and to encourage their participation. He would ensure that the youth are involved in developing and implementing youth policies, making them part of the solution and not just a passive audience.

3.3.1 On encouraging youths to engage in creative Ideas, mobilization and sustainability

72. The nominee informed the Committee that he would encourage youth by providing a platform for them to create, by equipping and facilitating youth development centres in constituencies and further ensuring that each constituency had a Youth Development Centre. He would seek to have the youth utilize the innovation hubs established by the State Department for ICT. To keep the youths motivated, he would seek to identify their unique talents and ideas and possibly patent them to ensure the youths own their ideas, thus encouraging them to continue innovating.

3.3.2 On the biggest challenge faced by the youth

73. The nominee noted that the biggest challenge faced perennially by the nation's youths was the gap in accessing government services. He provided an example of the digital hub and the Artificial Intelligence centre at the Kenya School of Government Headquarters, which are not accessible to youths across the country, and have not been made available in KSG branches. He also noted a gap between innovation and transitioning innovations into business, thus highlighting the need to partner with the State Department for ICT, Sports and Youth Affairs to mentor young people on how to transition their talents into income-earning opportunities.

3.3.3 On the Budget Constraints, allocation and utilization of funds

74. The nominee stated that for the successful implementation of programs, there would be a need for budgetary allocation and resource availability. He, however, stated that he believed in beginning with the available resources to ensure continuity of the projects. The nominee added that he would engage with multinationals and non-governmental organizations that run youth-centred programs for funding, as well as partner with State Departments that have youth-centric programmes and seek prioritization and alignment of these projects.

3.3.4 On ensuring transparency in the management of youth projects

75. The nominee believed that what was consistently lacking in the youth agenda was transparency, and he would thus seek to have regular engagements with the youth on physical and online platforms on the projects by the State Department. He would further ensure the submission of statutory reports on financial records and maintain an open-door policy, empowering both internal and external audits to identify areas of improvement and implement the necessary recommendations.

3.3.5 On his commitment to the continuing youth projects (VIVA, NYOTA and Sports Academy in Kasarani)

76. The nominee committed that, if approved, he would seek to ensure success of the Vijana Vuka NA Afya (VIVA), the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) projects the projects' success by strengthening their capacity to reach all the counties in Kenya. He would seek to ensure the projects are funded and encourage partnerships with organisations that run youth-centric projects to ensure they leave a lasting impact on the youth of Kenya. He noted that since NYOTA was the successor to the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP), he would undertake to ensure that all lessons learnt from KYEOP would be taken into account. He also noted that unlike KYEOP which had been restricted to specific counties, the NYOTA approach had a higher potential for impact since it was designed with all counties in mind.

3.3.6 On handling Conflict of Interest

77. The nominee stated that he would be guided by the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution on his conduct as a State Officer. He added that he considered himself a role model to the young people and would be very keen to remain impartial and unconflicted.

CHAPTER FOUR

4 OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

78. 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 (No. 33 of 2011) 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.

79. The Committee made the following general observations on the nominees:
    i. Both nominees are Kenyans and are not citizens of any other country. They therefore meet 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 had been competitive and that the nominees were in the shortlist as extrapolated from Article 155(3) of the Constitution;

    iii. The nominees were cleared by KRA on tax compliance, HELB on the payment of their 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 had invited members of the public to submit memoranda on the nominees pursuant to section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011. The Committee had not received any memoranda in support or contesting the suitability of any of the nominees.

4.1 CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o

80. The Committee observed that:
    i. CPA Carren holds a Diploma in Organizational Leadership from Harvard Business School (2024) a Master of Business Administration (MBA Executive) from Moi University (2006) and a Bachelor of Education (Mathematics and Accounting) from the University of Nairobi (1998);

    ii. The nominee has worked for the Kenya Revenue Authority from 2002, and had held leadership positions at the institution.

    iii. The nominee, during the approval hearing demonstrated that she had good understanding of the plans and policies of Children Welfare and those of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and how they fit into the Government's overall plans as required by Section 47(2)(v) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017;

    iv. According to the information and records presented to the Committee, CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o had never been implicated in any issues that may lead to lack of integrity on her

part and therefore met the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

v. CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the workings of the State Department for Children Welfare Services.

4.2 Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi

81. The Committee observed that:

i. Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Pwani University and therefore meets the requirements of Section 47(2) (ii) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017;

ii. The nominee had served as Director of the Governor's Delivery Unit, County Government of Kilifi, from May 2023 to date, and as Coordinator, Ganze Sub-County Office of the Senator, Kilifi County (Parliamentary Service Commission) from 2018 to 2022, and had held leadership positions.

iii. The nominee, during the approval hearing, had demonstrated that he had good understanding of the plans and policies of the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy and those of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports and how they fit into the government's policies as required by Section 47(2) (v) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017;

iv. According to the information and records presented to the Committee, Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi had never been implicated in any issues that may lead to lack of integrity on his part and therefore met the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

v. Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi had demonstrated knowledge of policies, programmes and projects in the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy.

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATION

82. Having considered the suitability, capacity and integrity of the nominees, and pursuant to Article 155(3)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8(2) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), the Committee recommends that the National Assembly:

i. **APPROVES the appointment of CPA Carren Achieng Ageng'o as Principal Secretary, State Department for Children Welfare Services; and**

ii. **APPROVES the appointment of Mr. Fikirini Jacobs Katoi Kahindi as Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy.**

SIGNED..... **DATE**.....08/04/2025.....

HON. ALICE WAMBUI NG'ANG'A, CBS, M.P
CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID
DATE: 10 APR 2025 | DAY.
TABLED BY: HON. ALICE NG'ANG'A CHAIRPERSON
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: INZORI MWALE

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION – 2025
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

VETTING REPORT ADOPTION SCHEDULE

AGENDA: CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON APPROVAL HEARINGS/ VETTING OF CPA CARREN ALHIENG AGENGO & FIKIRIN I JACOBS KATOI KAHINDI AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (NOMINEES) FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN WELFARE SERVICES & STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS

VENUE:

Date: 4th April, 2025 **Start Time: ..... End Time: .....**

NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	**Hon. Alice Wambui Ngángá, CBS, MP Chairperson**	
2	**Hon. Hilary Kiplangat Kosgei, MP Vice-Chairperson**	
3	Hon. Faith Wairimu Gitau, MP	
4	Hon. Owen Baya Yaa, MP	
5	Hon. Edith Nyenze, MP	
6	Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi Wetangula, MP	
7	Hon. Samuel Moroto, MP	
8	Hon. Paul Abuor, MP	
9	Hon. James Onyango Oyoo, MP	
10	Hon. Susan Nduyo, MP	
11	Hon. Agnes Mantaine Pareyio, MP	
12	Hon. Hussein Abdi Barre, MP	
13	Hon. Amina Dika, MP	
14	Hon. Zamzam Mohamed Chimba, MP	
15	Hon. Linet Chepkorir, MP	

Forwarded by:

Signed.....Date..... 04/04/25

FINLAY MUKUI

Mr. Ahmednoor H. Sheikh
Third Clerk Assistant – Committee Clerk
COMMITTEE CLERK

Approved By:

Sign..... Date.....

Mr. Peter K. Chemweno
Director