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26/5/26.*

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

REPORT ON:

APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. HUMPHREY MULONGO WATTANGA, EBS, AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO OTTAWA, CANADA

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

MAY, 2026

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 26 MAY 2026	DAY: Tuesday
TABLED BY:	Leader of the Majority Party
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	Getrude Chebet



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	3
LIST OF ANNEXURES	4
CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
1.0 PREFACE	9
1.1 Introduction	9
1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee	9
1.3 Committee Subjects	9
1.4 Committee Membership	10
1.5 Committee Secretariat	11
2.0 BACKGROUND	12
2.1 The Office of High Commissioner	12
2.2 Notification of the Nomination	12
2.3 Notification to the House and Referral to the Committee	13
2.4 Notification to the Public	13
2.5 Notification to the Nominee	14
2.6 Clearance and Compliance Requirements	14
2.7 Issues for Consideration during the Approval Hearings	14
2.8 Memoranda from Members of the Public in respect of the Nominee	16
3.0 APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. HUMPHREY MULONGO WATTANGA AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO OTTAWA, CANADA.	17
3.1 Questions from the General Questionnaire	17
3.2 General and Mission-Specific Questions to the Nominee	18
3.3 Committee's Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee	20
4.0 COMMITTEE'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	21
5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	22

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANC	Amani National Congress
Cap	Chapter (of the Laws of Kenya)
CBS	Chief of the Burning Spear
CRB	Credit Reference Bureau
CUE	Commission for University Education
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
EACC	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
H.E.	His Excellency
HELB	Higher Education Loans Board
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
M.P.	Member of Parliament
NIS	National Intelligence Service
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
ORPP	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
UDA	United Democratic Alliance
UDM	United Democratic Movement
UN	United Nations
WDM-K	Wiper Democratic Movement of Kenya

LIST OF ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Transmittal letter from H.E. the President regarding parliamentary approval of the nominee for appointment to the Foreign Service
- Annexure 2: Message from the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly to the House regarding nomination of one (1) person for appointment as Ambassador
- Annexure 3: Advertisement notifying the public of the approval hearing and submission of memoranda
- Annexure 4: Letters from the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting the nominee for the approval hearing
- Annexure 5: Letters from the Clerk of the National Assembly to EACC, KRA, DCI, ODPP, ORPP and HELB requesting information on the nominee
- Annexure 6: Letters of clearance from EACC, KRA, DCI, ODPP, ORPP and HELB
- Annexure 7: Nominee's Clearance Certificates from EACC, KRA, DCI, ORPP, HELB and CRB
- Annexure 8: Nominee's curriculum vitae
- Annexure 9: Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee
- Annexure 10: Committee's Report Adoption Schedule

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This Report presents the proceedings and findings of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the approval hearing of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS, who was nominated by His Excellency the President for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada. The purpose of the approval hearing was to ascertain the suitability of the nominee to discharge the responsibilities of the office to which he had been nominated.

The Committee is established pursuant to Article 124(1) of the Constitution and Standing Order 216 of the National Assembly. Standing Order 216 mandates Departmental Committees to, among other functions, vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires approval by the National Assembly, except those falling under the mandate of the Committee on Appointments. Further, the Second Schedule to the Standing Orders mandates the Committee to oversee matters relating to foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, and international relations.

Pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, Sections 20(2) and 22(2)(a) of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, and Sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, His Excellency the President transmitted to the National Assembly the nomination of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada. The Speaker of the National Assembly subsequently referred the nomination to the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations for consideration and reporting to the House within the statutory timelines.

In undertaking this assignment, the Committee was guided by the Constitution, the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, and the National Assembly Standing Orders. The Committee conducted the approval hearing on Thursday, 14th May 2026, during which it examined the nominee's academic qualifications, professional experience, integrity, leadership record, vision for strengthening Kenya-Canada relations, and overall suitability for appointment as High Commissioner.

The Committee further facilitated public participation in accordance with Article 118 of the Constitution by inviting members of the public to submit memoranda on the nominee's suitability prior to the approval hearing. However, concerns were raised regarding the nominee's request for rescheduling of the approval hearing on account of an ongoing handover process at the Kenya Revenue Authority, which occasioned additional public expenditure arising from the need to undertake a second public advertisement.

The Committee sought clearance reports from relevant statutory institutions, including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), all of which confirmed the nominee's compliance with statutory and integrity requirements.

The Committee noted that the nominee possesses extensive experience in public finance management, taxation, investment advisory, and institutional leadership, having previously served

as Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation. The nominee also demonstrated an understanding of the strategic importance of Kenya-Canada relations, particularly in trade, investment, innovation, education, and technology partnerships.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Members of the Committee for their diligence and valuable contributions during the approval hearing and preparation of this Report. The Committee also acknowledges the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the administrative and technical support extended to the Committee during the exercise

Having considered the nominee's academic and professional qualifications, work experience, integrity records, and responses during the approval hearing, the Committee was satisfied that the nominee meets the constitutional and statutory requirements for appointment. Accordingly, and pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, Sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, Section 20(2) of the Foreign Service Act, Cap. 185E, and Standing Order 216(5)(f), **the Committee recommends that the House APPROVES the appointment of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo, EBS Wattanga as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada.**

SIGNED:  DATE: 26/05/26

THE HON. NELSON KOECH, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE
AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution mandates the President to nominate, and with the approval of the National Assembly appoint, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and diplomatic representatives. Article 124(4)(a) further requires that such appointments be considered by a Committee of the relevant House.

Pursuant to these provisions and in accordance with Sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, His Excellency the President transmitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly the nomination of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS, for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada. The Speaker subsequently conveyed the Message to the House and referred the nomination to the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations for vetting and reporting within the statutory timelines.

In compliance with Article 118 of the Constitution and Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, the Clerk of the National Assembly notified the public of the intended approval hearing and invited members of the public to submit memoranda regarding the suitability of the nominee. Following the nominee's request for rescheduling of the hearing to allow completion of an ongoing handover process at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), a second advertisement was undertaken to notify the public of the revised hearing date. By the deadline for receipt of memoranda, no submissions contesting the suitability of the nominee had been received.

The Clerk also sought clearance from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), all of which confirmed the nominee's compliance with statutory and integrity requirements.

The Committee conducted the approval hearing on Thursday, 14th May 2026 guided by the Constitution, the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, and the National Assembly Standing Orders. During the hearing, the Committee examined the nominee's academic qualifications, professional background, leadership experience, integrity, and vision for strengthening Kenya's diplomatic, trade, investment, and bilateral relations with Canada.

During the hearing, the nominee outlined his experience in public finance management, investment advisory, and revenue administration, including his service as Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation. He further highlighted his plans to address the trade imbalance between Kenya and Canada through promotion of value-added exports, attraction of Canadian investment, and leveraging Kenya's strategic position under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Committee nevertheless raised concerns regarding the nominee's request for rescheduling of the approval hearing on account of an ongoing handover process at KRA, noting that the request occasioned additional public expenditure and was unusual for a presidential nominee.

Having considered the nominee's academic credentials, professional qualifications, integrity clearance reports, oral submissions, and responses during the approval hearing, the Committee found that the nominee meets the constitutional and statutory requirements for appointment to State Office, including compliance with Chapter Six of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity.

Consequently, and pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, Sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, Section 20(2) of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, and Standing Order 216(5)(f) of the National Assembly, **the Committee recommends that the House APPROVES the appointment of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga, EBS, as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada.**

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

1. Pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution as read with sections 20(2) and 22(2) (a) of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, His Excellency the President, through the Head of the Public Service and via the transmittal letter dated 14th April, 2026, transmitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly the name of one (1) person nominated for approval by the House for appointment as High Commissioner.
2. Article 124(4)(a) of the Constitution provides that when a House of Parliament considers any appointment for which its approval is required under the Constitution or an Act of Parliament, the appointment shall be considered by a Committee of the relevant House.
3. This report details the proceedings of the Committee during the approval hearing of the nominee for appointment as Ambassador. The purpose of the approval hearing was to ascertain the suitability of the nominee to discharge the responsibilities of the office of the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada

1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

4. The Departmental Committee on Defence Intelligence and Foreign Relations is one of the Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under Standing Order 216 whose mandates, pursuant to the Standing Order 216 (5) includes, among others, *to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any other law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments).*

1.3 Committee Subjects

5. The subject matter of the Committee is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes, among others, *foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, and international relations.*

In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):

- (a) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;
- (b) The Ministry of Defence;
- (c) The State Department for East African Community Affairs (EAC); and
- (d) The National Intelligence Service (NIS).

1.4 Committee Membership

6. The Committee was constituted by the House on 27th October 2022 and subsequently reconstituted on 6th March 2025, and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Nelson Koech, CBS, M.P.

Belgut Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, CBS, M.P.

Mandera North Constituency

UDM Party

Members

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.
Gilgil Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Joshua Kandie, M.P.
Baringo Central Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, CBS, M.P.
Suba North Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.
Kinangop Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.
Kamukunji Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.
Sabatia Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.
Kajiado Central Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.
Shinyalu Constituency
ANC Party

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP
Kitui County
WDM-K

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, M.P.
Lagdera Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.
Central Imenti Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Anne Muratha, M.P.
Kiambu County
UDA Party

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.
Saboti Constituency
ODM Party

1.5 Committee Secretariat

7. The Committee Secretariat comprises the following technical staff:

Mr. Muyodi Emmanuel
Clerk Assistant I/Head of Secretariat

Mr. Bernard Njeru
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Lenny Muchangi
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Martin Sigei
Research Officer III

Mr. Edwin Machuki
Fiscal Analyst II

Mr. Salat Ali
Principal Serjeant-at-Arms II

Mr. Alex Amwata
Hansard Reporter II

Ms. Frida Ngari
Media Relations Officer III

Mr. Mark Mbuthia
Audio Recording Officer III

Ms. Maryan Gabow
Public Communications Officer III

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Office of High Commissioner

8. The Office of High Commissioner is an office under the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, according to Executive Order No. 2 of 2025.
9. The duties of the office (Head of a Mission), pursuant to Section 21 of the Foreign Service Act Cap 185E, are to:
 - (a) actively pursue the foreign policy objectives of the Republic in the host country;
 - (b) act as the personal representative of the Head of State in the host country;
 - (c) act as an official representative of the Republic at official functions in the host country;
 - (d) be responsible for the management and administration of the Mission and all members of the Foreign Service located at the Mission, including the locally engaged staff of the Mission; and
 - (e) be accountable for any expenditure of the Mission and ensure that the budget of the Mission is administered in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 412A and all other applicable laws and regulations.
10. On appointment, Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution provides that *the President shall nominate and, with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint and may dismiss high commissioners, ambassadors and diplomatic and consular representatives*. Section 20 of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E, reaffirms these constitutional provisions, designating the Office of a high commissioner, ambassador, diplomatic, or consular representative as a State office as per Article 260 of the Constitution.
11. Additionally, Section 20(2) of the Act provides that in accordance with Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, the President shall nominate and, subject to approval by the National Assembly, appoint high commissioners, ambassadors, and diplomatic or consular representatives. Furthermore, Section 20(3) of the Act mandates that a nomination under subsection (2) should ensure a fair balance between career diplomats and other appointees, as well as represent the gender, regional, and other diversities of the Kenyan populace. Any individual nominated for appointment under subsection (2) must be a Kenyan citizen and possess reputable character and standing.

2.2 Notification of the Nomination

12. Pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution as read with Sections 20(2) and 22(2)(e) of the Foreign Service Act Cap 185E, and Sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, His Excellency the President, through the Head of the Public Service, transmitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly vide the transmittal letter dated 14th April, 2026, referenced **EOP/CAB.26/4A VOL.VIII/(8)** (*Annexure 1*), the name and curriculum vitae together with other testimonials of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga nominated for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada.

2.3 Notification to the House and Referral to the Committee

13. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 42(2) of the National Assembly, the Speaker, through a Communication dated Thursday, **16th April 2026**, informed Members of the President's Message (*Annexure 2*) on nomination of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga nominated for appointment as High Commissioner Ottawa, Canada.
14. Pursuant to Section 8(1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F and Standing Order 216(5)(f) as read with the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders, the name and curriculum vitae and other testimonials of Mr. Humphrey Wattanga nominated for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada were referred to the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations for approval hearing as required under Article 124(4)(a) of the Constitution, and reporting to the House within twenty-eight (28) days.
15. The nominee wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly seeking a rescheduling of the approval hearing, citing the ongoing handover process in his current office as the reason for the request. Following the approval of the request, the hearing was rescheduled for Thursday, **14th May 2026**, thereby allowing the nominee sufficient time to conclude the ongoing handover process.
16. The nominee wrote to the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly seeking a rescheduling of the approval hearing, citing the ongoing handover process in his current office. Following consideration and approval of the request, the hearing was rescheduled to Thursday, 14th May 2026, thereby granting the nominee adequate time to finalize the handover process.
17. The nominee wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly seeking the rescheduling of the approval hearing, citing the ongoing handover process in his current office as the reason for the request. The request was considered by the Committee and subsequently by the National Assembly, which, through a resolution passed on 23rd April 2026, approved the extension of the vetting period and rescheduled the hearing to Thursday, 14th May 2026.

2.4 Notification to the Public

15. Article 118 of the Constitution provides that Parliament shall facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative business and other business of Parliament and its Committees. Further, Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F provides that the Clerk shall notify the public of the time and place for holding approval hearings at least seven days prior to the hearings.
16. Further, Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F provides that *any person may, prior to the approval hearings 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.*
17. Pursuant to Article 118 of the Constitution as read with Section 6(9) of Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, the Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on **17th April 2026** (*Annexure 3*) inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statement on oath (affidavit) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee on or before **24th April 2026 at 5.00 pm.**
18. Following the request by the nominee to reschedule the approval hearing, the Clerk of the National Assembly placed the second advertisement in the print media on **6th May 2026**

(Annexure 4) inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statement on oath (affidavit) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee on or before **13th May 2026 at 5.00 pm.**

19. Further, through the same advertisement and pursuant to Article 118 of the Constitution, Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F and Standing Order 45(3) of the National Assembly, the Clerk of the National Assembly notified the general public that the approval hearing of the nominee would be conducted on **Thursday 14th May 2026 at the Bunge Tower, Room 18/19, 3rd Floor, Parliament Buildings at 10.00 am.**

2.5 Notification to the Nominee

20. The Clerk of the National Assembly invited the nominee through letter dated **6th May 2026** (Annexure 4) and through an advertisement in the print media on **6th May 2026** (Annexure 4), for the approval hearing in accordance with Section 6(3) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F.

2.6 Clearance and Compliance Requirements

21. On **Friday, 17th April 2026**, the Clerk of the National Assembly wrote to the EACC, KRA, DCI, HELB, ORPP and ODPP requesting for reports with respect to the nominee on ethics and integrity, tax compliance, criminal records, higher education loans repayments and political party affiliations.
22. The EACC, through a letter **Ref. No. EACC.7/10/5 VOL. XXXVI (121)** dated **22nd April 2026**, confirmed that it had not undertaken any investigation nor has it recommended prosecution of the nominee.
23. The KRA, through a letter **Ref. No. KRA/5/1002/5(13895)**, dated **24th April, 2026**, confirmed that the nominee was tax compliant.
24. The DCI, through a letter **Ref. No. PCC-WWS7DD4VM** dated **13th May 2026**, provided forensic fingerprint analysis of the nominee had been conducted in the criminal database and found that he had no previous criminal record.
25. The HELB, through a letter **Ref. No. HELB/RR/112009/V/504** dated **22nd April 2026**, indicated that the nominee was compliant.
26. The ORPP, through a letter **Ref. No. ORPP/ORG/34/VOL. X (13)** dated **20th April 2026** confirmed that the nominee was not an official of any registered political party.
27. The ODPP, through a letter **Ref. No. ODPP/CONF/5/50A** dated **24th April 2026** confirmed that there were no active criminal proceedings or previous charges recorded against the nominee.

2.7 Issues for Consideration during the Approval Hearings

28. In conducting the approval hearings, the Committee was guided by Section 6(7) and (8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F which provides that:
 - (7) *An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background.*
 - (8) *The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate.*

29. Additionally, Section 7 of the Act provides that the issues for consideration by the relevant House of Parliament in relation to any nomination shall be:
- (a) *the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;*
 - (b) *any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and 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.*

(a) Procedure for Nomination

30. Article 132 (2)(e) of the Constitution confers upon the President the power to nominate and, with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint high commissioners, ambassadors and diplomatic and consular representatives.
31. Section 5(1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, further requires the appointing authority, upon nominating a person for appointment, to notify the relevant House of Parliament.
32. In this regard, pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution and Section 5(1) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, the President notified the National Assembly of the nomination of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada.

(b) Constitutional and Statutory Requirements

33. In addition, the Constitution and various statutes guide the appointment of persons to public office. In determining the suitability of the nominees, the Committee was guided by the provisions on leadership and integrity as outlined in Chapter Six of the Constitution. Article 73(2) of the Constitution provides that the guiding principles of leadership and integrity include:
- (a) selection on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability, or election in free and fair elections;
 - (b) objectivity and impartiality in decision making, and in ensuring that decisions are not influenced by nepotism, favouritism, other improper motives or corrupt practices;
 - (c) selfless service based solely on the public interest, demonstrated by —
 - i. honesty in the execution of public duties; and
 - ii. the declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties;
 - (d) accountability to the public for decisions and actions; and
 - (e) discipline and commitment in service to the people.
34. Furthermore, Article 75 of the Constitution requires a State Officer, whether in public or private life to behave in a manner that avoids conflict between personal interest and public official duties. It further prohibits a State Officer who has been dismissed or otherwise removed from office from holding any other State Office.
35. Regarding the activities of State Officers, Article 77 of the Constitution prohibits a full-time State Officer from participating in any other gainful employment or holding office in a political party.
36. Further, Article 78 of the Constitution disqualifies persons who are not Kenyan citizens from appointment as State Officers. Equally, a State Officer is barred from holding dual citizenship.
37. In addition, the Committee considered Section 10 of the Leadership and Integrity Act, Cap 185C which provides that:

A State officer shall, to the best of their ability—

(a) carry out the duties of the office efficiently and honestly;

(b) carry out the duties in a transparent and accountable manner;

(c) keep accurate records and documents relating to the functions of the office; and

(d) report truthfully on all matters of the organization which they represent.

38. Further, Section 20 of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E provides that:

(1) The Office of a high commissioner, ambassador, diplomatic or consular representative shall be a State office for purposes of Article 260 of the Constitution.

(2) Pursuant to Article 132 (2) (e) of the Constitution, the President shall nominate and, subject to the approval of the National Assembly, appoint high commissioners, ambassadors and diplomatic or consular representatives.

(3) A nomination under sub section (2) shall reflect—

(a) a fair balance between career diplomats and other appointees; and

(b) the gender, regional and other diversities of the people of Kenya.

(4) A person nominated for appointment under subsection (2) shall be—

(a) a citizen of Kenya; and

(b) of a reputable character and standing.

(c) Suitability of the nominees for the proposed appointments having regard to whether the nominees' abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is being made.

39. The nominee's suitability to hold the office of High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada was assessed through a scrutiny of his academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity, background, as well as his performance during the approval hearings conducted on **Thursday, 14th May 2026**.

2.8 Memoranda from Members of the Public in respect of the Nominee

40. The Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media on **6th May 2026** (*Annexure 4*) inviting the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (affidavit) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee in conformity with Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F.

41. In this regard, by **13th May 2026 at 5.00 pm**, the Committee had not received any submissions either by written statement on oath (affidavit) or via email from members of the public regarding the nomination of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga for appointment as High Commissioner Ottawa, Canada.

3.0 APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. HUMPHREY MULONGO WATTANGA AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO OTTAWA, CANADA.

42. Mr. Humphrey Wattanga appeared before the Committee on Thursday 14th May 2026, at 10.00 am and was vetted under oath pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E and the National Assembly Standing Orders. The Committee noted as follows:

3.1 Questions from the General Questionnaire

Citizenship, Date and Place of Birth

43. The nominee is a Kenyan citizen born on 25th June 1971 in Starehe, Nairobi County, within the Republic of Kenya. He confirmed that he is a citizen by birth and does not hold dual citizenship.

Academic and Professional Qualifications

44. The nominee holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, awarded in May 2000. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemical Sciences (cum laude) from Harvard University, awarded in June 1996.

Employment Record and Work Experience

45. The nominee most recently served as Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) from August 2023 to April 2026. Prior to this appointment, he served as Managing Director of Meghraj Capital Ltd., Vice-Chairperson and Commissioner at the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), and Senior Partner at AFCORP Investments in South Africa. He also serves as Director of Nordic Impact Fund in Denmark and has been a member of the Investment Committee of Kenya Climate Ventures since 2019.

Honours and awards

46. The nominee has received several honours and awards in recognition of academic excellence and public service. These include the Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) award conferred in 2025, the Nelson Mandela Hope Worldwide Scholarship, the Kaiser Family Foundation Scholarship, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Research Award, the Harvard Faculty Scholarship, and the Dr. Ouko Award for Academic Excellence.

Professional Association and Memberships

47. The nominee is a Platinum Member of the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) Institute. He is also a member of several social and professional clubs, including the Capital Club, Karen Club, and Royal Nairobi Golf Club.

Published Writings

48. The nominee's published articles include "KRA's Ambitious Digital Transformation Will Boost Efficiency & Trust" published in The Standard on 5th September 2025 and "Reimagining Tax Administration in the Digital Age" published in The Star on 15th September 2025. He also contributed to a Brookings Institution publication titled "Perspectives on Impact Bonds: Working around legal barriers to impact bonds in Kenya to facilitate non-state investment and results-based financing of non-state ECD providers" published in December 2015.

Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations

49. The nominee has held several public offices, including serving as Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority and as Vice-Chairperson and Commissioner of the Commission on Revenue Allocation. He stated that he has not held any office in a political party, nor participated in political activities.

Income and Net Worth

50. The nominee declared an estimated net worth of approximately KES 500 million.

Potential Conflict of Interest

51. The nominee declared that he does not have any persons, litigation, financial arrangement, matter or issue that would present a potential conflict of interest should he assume the position of High Commissioner. The nominee stated that, should a conflict of interest arise during the discharge of his duties, he would declare the interest in writing to the appointing authority in accordance with the law.

Pro-Bono, Charity Work or Donation to Charity

52. The nominee stated that he has continuously engaged in charitable and community support initiatives, including payment of school fees for needy students, settlement of hospital bills, support to bereaved families, sponsorship of community social and sporting events, and participation in environmental conservation activities such as tree planting.

Integrity

53. The nominee stated that he has neither been charged in a court of law nor adversely mentioned in any investigatory report of Parliament or any Commission of Inquiry in the last three years. The nominee has never been dismissed or otherwise removed from office for contravention of the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution.

3.2 General and Mission-Specific Questions to the Nominee

54. To assess the nominee's overall suitability for the position, the Committee posed questions to the nominee on his suitability for appointment as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada. The nominee responded as follows:

On request for extension of the approval hearing

55. The nominee explained that his request for rescheduling of the approval hearing was necessitated by the need to conclude an orderly handover process at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), where he had been serving as Commissioner General. He stated that the transition involved critical institutional responsibilities and the transfer of ongoing reforms and administrative functions to the Acting Commissioner General. The nominee acknowledged concerns raised by Members regarding the unprecedented nature of the request and the additional public expenditure occasioned by the second advertisement but maintained that the structured handover was necessary to ensure continuity and stability within the institution.

On his multidisciplinary educational and professional background

56. The nominee highlighted his multidisciplinary academic and professional background, noting that he holds Bachelor of Arts in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University and an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He further outlined his extensive experience in medical research, corporate finance, impact investment, public finance

management, and revenue administration, including service at the Commission on Revenue Allocation and the Kenya Revenue Authority.

Short tenure in previous institutions

57. The nominee explained that some transitions were occasioned by educational advancement opportunities and mutual agreements with employers, while others resulted from movement into public service roles. He stated that his career trajectory reflected progression into more demanding leadership responsibilities rather than instability or inability to sustain long-term institutional commitments.

On performance and reforms at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)

58. The nominee stated that during his tenure as Commissioner General, KRA recorded significant growth in revenue collection despite difficult economic conditions and global geopolitical challenges. He informed the Committee that revenue collection grew from approximately KES 2.166 trillion in the Financial Year 2022/2023 to approximately KES 2.572 trillion in the Financial Year 2024/2025. The revenue target for the 2025/26 fiscal year is set at 2.97 trillion KES, with projections indicating collections could surpass 2.8 trillion KES, demonstrating sustained positive momentum.
59. He further highlighted institutional reforms undertaken during his tenure, including digital transformation initiatives, expansion of data analytics capabilities, introduction of pre-filled tax returns, and technology-driven compliance systems such as WhatsApp tax filing services.
60. Mr. Watanga acknowledged the challenges of expanding the tax base but stressed the importance of broadening participation to reduce the burden on existing taxpayers

On concerns regarding his departure from KRA

61. The nominee explained that the commencement of terminal leave prior to expiry of contract was provided for under the terms of his employment contract and was therefore procedural and lawful. He further clarified that his departure did not interrupt institutional operations because a formal handover process had been undertaken.

On the Nominee's lack of formal diplomatic experience

62. The nominee stated that his extensive engagement in corporate finance, international consultancy, bilateral negotiations, public finance management, and cross-border investment initiatives had exposed him to diplomatic-type engagements involving negotiation, strategic communication, consensus building, and management of international partnerships. He undertook to rapidly acquire additional diplomatic and protocol skills necessary for effective discharge of the responsibilities of High Commissioner.

On the current trade imbalance between Kenya and Canada

63. The nominee informed the Committee that there exists a significant trade imbalance between Kenya and Canada, with Canada exporting substantially more goods to Kenya than Kenya exports to Canada. He stated that his priority would be to promote value addition in Kenyan exports, particularly in sectors such as macadamia, avocado oil, tea, coffee, and horticulture products. He further proposed leveraging Kenya's strategic geographical position and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework to position Kenya as a gateway for Canadian investment into East Africa and the wider African market.

On the opportunities for cooperation between Kenya and Canada

64. The nominee identified several potential areas of cooperation between Kenya and Canada, including technology, healthcare, innovation, climate-smart investments, higher education, skills development, and digital economy partnerships. He emphasized the need to create opportunities for Kenyan youth through educational exchange programmes, vocational training partnerships, and participation in Canada's technology and innovation ecosystem. He further noted that Canada's advanced expertise in healthcare, precision medicine, and genomics presented opportunities for collaboration with Kenya's growing scientific and medical sectors.

On his commitment to the diplomatic posting to Ottawa, Canada

65. The nominee stated that he considered the appointment an honour and a major responsibility entrusted to him by His Excellency the President. He emphasized that Canada, as a G7 economy and an important global partner, presents significant strategic opportunities for Kenya in trade, education, investment, technology, and international cooperation. He assured the Committee of his commitment to represent Kenya diligently and effectively while advancing the country's economic and diplomatic interests.

3.3 Committee's Observations on the Suitability of the Nominee

66. The Committee, having reviewed the nominee's completed questionnaire, curriculum vitae and oral submission, made the following observations regarding his suitability for appointment as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ottawa, Canada:
- (1) **THAT**, in accordance with Article 78(1) and (2) of the Constitution, the nominee is eligible for appointment to State Office since he is a Kenyan citizen and does not hold dual citizenship.
 - (2) **THAT**, the nominee meets the requirements of Chapter Six (6) of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having obtained clearances from EACC, KRA, DCI, ODPP, ORPP and HELB.
 - (3) **THAT**, the nominee has not been charged in a court of law.
 - (4) **THAT**, the nominee does not hold office in any political party, a requirement under Article 77(2) of the Constitution and the Schedule of the Public Appointment (Parliamentary Approval) Cap 7F.
 - (5) **THAT**, the nominee has never been dismissed from office under Article 75 of the Constitution for contravention of the provisions of Articles 75(1), Article 76, Article 77 and Article 78(2) of the Constitution.

4.0 COMMITTEE'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS


67. The Committee, having considered the nominee's academic credentials and professional qualifications, work and professional experience, personal integrity, as well as his performance during the approval hearing, made the following general observations:
- 1) The nominee is a Kenyan citizen and does not hold dual citizenship in conformity with Article 78 of the Constitution.
 - 2) The nominee committed not to participate in any other gainful employment while serving as a State Officer as required by Article 77(1) of the Constitution.
 - 3) In accordance with Article 77(2) of the Constitution and the Schedule of the Public Appointment (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, the nominee does not hold office in any political party.
 - 4) The nominee indicated compliance with Articles 75 and 76 of the Constitution on the conduct and financial probity of State Officers. He indicated the nonexistence of a potential conflict of interest and committed to declare any should it arise.
 - 5) By the set deadline of receipt of memoranda from members of the public, the Committee did not receive any submissions either by written statement on oath (affidavit) or via email from members of the public regarding the nomination of Mr. Humphrey Wattanga for appointment as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada.
 - 6) The nominee presented his academic and professional credentials, made oral submissions during the approval hearing, demonstrating his suitability for appointment in accordance with the provisions of Section 6(7) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F.
 - 7) The nominee possesses strong academic credentials, having studied at internationally recognized institutions including Harvard University and the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and demonstrated extensive experience in public finance management, corporate finance, investment advisory, and revenue administration.
 - 8) The nominee demonstrated substantial experience in public administration and institutional leadership through his service at the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) and as Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), where he oversaw significant revenue growth and implementation of various digital reforms.
 - 9) The Committee noted the explanation advanced by the nominee in support of the request to reschedule the approval hearing, on account of an ongoing handover process at the Kenya Revenue Authority, to be unsatisfactory. The Committee further noted that the request was unusual for a presidential nominee.
 - 10) The nominee would require structured orientation and adequate support in diplomatic practice, foreign policy implementation, and protocol affairs in order to effectively discharge the responsibilities of the office of High Commissioner.

5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

68. Having conducted the approval hearing pursuant to Article 132(2)(e) of the Constitution; Sections 3 and 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F; Section 20 (2) of the Foreign Service Act, Cap 185E and Standing Order 216(5)(f) of the National Assembly, **the Committee recommends that the House APPROVES the appointment of Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga as High Commissioner to Ottawa, Canada.**

SIGNED:  DATE: 26/05/26

**THE HON. NELSON KOECH, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE
AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 26 MAY 2026	
DAY: Tuesday	
TABLED BY:	Leader of the Majority Party
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Celinde Chebet



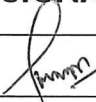
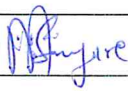

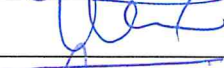
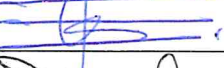





REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

**REPORT ON APPROVAL HEARING OF MR. HUMPHREY MULONGO
WATTANGA, EBS, AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO OTTAWA, CANADA**

We, Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations, have pursuant to Standing Order 199, adopted this Report and affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity today, **Tuesday 26th May 2026.**

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P. (Chairperson)	
2.	The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, EGH, M.P	
4.	The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, EGH, M.P	
5.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, MP	
6.	The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP	
7.	The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P	
8.	The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P	
9.	The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P	
10	The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P	
11	The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P	
12	The Hon. Anne Muratha, M.P	
13	The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P	
14	The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P	
15	The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P	

