



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

SECOND ASSEMBLY-FIRST SESSION

**THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND
LIVESTOCK
REPORT**

**ON NOMINATION OF DR.ALEXANDER K. CHIRCHIR FOR
APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OFFICER INCHARGE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**

DECEMBER, 2017

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1.0 PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and pursuant to Standing Order 193(5) (f), it is my duty and pleasure to present to the County Assembly, the Committee's report on the vetting of the nominee for appointment as Chief Officer in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is one of the Sectoral committees established under Standing Order 193(1). It is therefore the relevant Committee that is mandated to vet and report for approval by the County Assembly, nominations made under Section 45(1) (b) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

1.1 Committee Membership

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, as currently constituted, comprises of the following members:-

1. Hon. Ambrose Koech - Chairperson
2. Hon. Koske Augustine - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Ridha Chepkirui - Member
4. Hon. Samwel Keter - Member
5. Hon. Wesley Bett - Member
6. Hon. Clara Cherotich - Member
7. Hon. Robert Rono - Member

1.2 Committee's Mandate

Mr. Speaker,

The Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries derives its mandate from provisions of Standing Order 193(5) and the Second Schedule to the Standing Orders which defines functions of the Committee as being:

- a) To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- b) To study the programmes and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of their implementation;
- c) To study and review all legislations referred to it;
- d) To study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as may be deemed necessary, and as may be referred to it by the County Assembly;
- f) To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 188(Committee on appointments);and
- g) To make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

1.3 Nomination of the County Chief Officer In charge of the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Section 45(1)(a) of the County Governments Act, 2012, the Governor forwarded to the Speaker of the County Assembly, the name of Dr. Alexander K. Chirchir vide letter dated 5th December, 2017 for vetting and approval by the County Assembly for appointment as the County Chief Officer In charge of the department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock. The nominee was then committed to the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries which was to conduct vetting of the nominee and report to the Assembly as provided for under the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017.

1.4 Committee Meetings

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The committee held a total **four** meetings and in one of the meetings the said nominee appeared for vetting in accordance with the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017 for appointment as the Chief Officer in charge of the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Committee resolved to invite the nominee for an approval hearing at the County Assembly's Chamber on Monday 18th December, 2017. In conducting the vetting exercise, the Committee made reference to the Constitution, the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, the County Governments Act, 2012 and the County Assembly Standing Orders.

The Committee complied with the Constitutional and legal requirements and the established procedures for vetting. It ensured that there was public participation and openness in carrying out the vetting exercise. Notifications and invitations to the public to submit memoranda were placed in the mainstream print media as required by law.

2.0 Acknowledgment

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk for the support accorded to it during the vetting exercise and execution of the committee's mandate.

As the chairperson, I also take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee for their Commitment to serve the public.

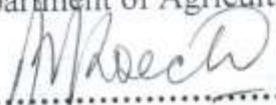
Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The Committee made several findings on the nominee during the vetting exercise. These findings guided the Committee in making its final recommendation. The Committee's final recommendation was based on the information by the nominee from the proceedings of the Committee during the vetting exercise, the constitution and all other relevant statutes. This recommendation was agreed upon by the Committee Members during the adoption of the Report on Thursday 21st December, 2017.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

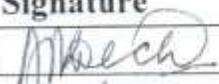
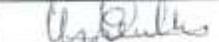
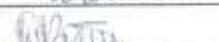
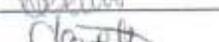
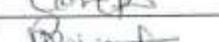
Finally, on behalf of the Committee, and pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017 and Standing Order No.193 (5) (f), on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, I have the honour and pleasure to present the committee's report on vetting of the nominee, Dr. Alexander K. Chirchir, for appointment as the County Chief Officer in charge of the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

SIGNED:..........DATE.....21.12.2017.....

HON.AMBROSE KOECH, CHAIRPERSON

3.0 Ownership of the Report

We, the members of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee, do append our signatures against our names to this report to affirm the correctness of the contents and support for the report;

No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1.	Hon. Ambrose Koech	Chair	
2.	Hon. Koske Augustine	V/Chair	
3.	Hon. Ridha Chepkirui	Member	
4.	Hon. Samwel Keter	Member	
5.	Hon. Wesley Bett	Member	
6.	Hon. Cherotich Clara	Member	
7.	Hon. Robert Rono	Member	

Dated this.....21st.....of December, 2017

4.0 Background

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is one of the Sectoral committees established under Standing order No. 193(1) and deals with all county matters relating to Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries including appointments that require the County Assembly's approval.

Section 45 of the County Governments Act establishes the office of the County Chief Officer. The section requires the Governor to nominate and with the approval of the County Assembly, appoint County Chief Officers.

Section 45 (1) of the County Governments Act further provides that the Governor shall-

- a) nominate qualified and experienced county chief officers from among persons competitively sourced and recommended by the County Public Service Board; and
- b) with the approval of the county assembly, appoint county Chief Officers.

Additionally, the procedure for approval hearing, issues for consideration and the period for consideration and reporting is provided for under the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, No. 5 of 2017.

Article 73(2) of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity provides as that the guiding principles of leadership and integrity include;

- a) Selection on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability in free and fair elections;
- b) Objectivity and impartiality in decision making and in ensuring that decisions are not influenced by nepotism, favoritism, other improper motives or corrupt practices.
- c) Selfless services based solely on the public interest, demonstrated by-
 - i. Honesty in the execution of public duties
 - ii. The declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties.
 - iii. Accountability to the public for decisions and actions; and
 - iv. Discipline and commitment in service to the people.

4.1 Issues for consideration in conducting the Approval hearing

In conducting the Approval hearing, the Committee was guided by Article 73(2)(a)(b) (c) and (e) of the Constitution, Section 7(8) and Section 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, No. 5 of 2017.

Section 8 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act provides that the issues for consideration by the relevant County Assembly in relation to any nomination shall be—

- (a) the procedure used to arrive at the nominee including the criteria for the short listing of the nominees;
- (b) any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- (c) the suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominee's credentials, abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is being made.

4.2 Appointment Process of a County Chief Officer

Pursuant to Section 45 (1) of the County Governments Act, 2012, the Governor forwarded to the Speaker of the County Assembly, the name of Dr. Alexander K. Chirchir vide a letter dated 5th December, 2017 for vetting and consideration for approval by the County Assembly for appointment as the County Chief Officer in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

On 6th December, 2017, the name of the nominee was tabled in the Assembly and the Hon. Speaker directed that the nominee be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for vetting and report to the Assembly within 14 days.

4.3 Notification to the nominee

On 9th December, 2017, the Clerk of the Assembly, pursuant to Section 7(4) of the

Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, No. 5 of 2017 notified the nominee of the time and place for holding the approval hearing through an advert in the print media.

4.4 Notification to the public

The public was expected to participate in the vetting process through submission of memoranda (affidavit) on the suitability of the nominee in accordance with section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017. On **9th December**, 2017, pursuant to section 7(4) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, the Clerk of the County Assembly placed an advertisement in the print media and the Assembly's website inviting the public to submit memoranda by Friday 15th December, 2017 on the said nominee.

4.5 Committee meetings

The Committee conducted a vetting session on Monday 18th December, 2017. However, before the nominee was invited to appear; the committee held a session in order to deliberate and agree on the mode of vetting in line with the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017.

4.6 Submission of memoranda

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Section 7(10) of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017 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.

At the close of business on Friday, 15th December, 2017, the Committee had not received any memoranda from the public.

4.7 The Vetting Process

The committee allocated the nominee a maximum of one and a half hours for vetting. In conducting the vetting exercise, the Committee was guided by, among

other documents, the Constitution, the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017 and the County Assembly Standing Orders.

The Committee also considered the following criteria in vetting the nominee;

- a) Employment record and work experience
- b) Public office, political activities and affiliations
- c) Potential conflict of interest
- d) Suitability to the position
- e) Integrity
- f) General knowledge on public affairs

4.8 Submission of relevant documents from the nominee

The committee received the following documents from the nominee;

- i. Curriculum Vitae, personal credentials and academic certificates.
- ii. Online Compliance Certificate from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
- iii. Clearance Certificate from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).
- iv. Clearance Certificate from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
- v. Police Clearance Certificate from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).
- vi. Clearance Certificate from Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)

4.9 Vetting of Dr. Alexander K. Chirchir

Upon appearing before the committee on Monday 18th December, 2017, the nominee submitted to the committee as follows;

- (a) He indicated that he comes from Ndanai/Abosi Ward in Sotik sub-county.
- (b) He also indicated that he attended Kilgoris Secondary School for 'O' Level, Kapsabet Boys High School for 'A' Level, University of Nairobi for undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Science (Agri)), and Master of Science degree in Plant pathology and University of Nairobi for PhD in Crop protection.
- (c) He also said that he has vast experience in the Agriculture sector having worked as Chief Agriculture Officer in Mumias Sugar Company, Kenya Sugar Research Foundation as a Farm and Estates Manager, Nzoia Sugar Company as Cane Development Manager and at the Ministry of Agriculture

in Uasin Gishu District as the Divisional Agricultural Extension Officer.

- (d) When asked on the roles and duties of a Chief Officer, the nominee indicated that some of the roles of a Chief Officer would include being an accounting officer of the department, doing administrative duties, supervising the staff under the department, preparation of reports and linking the department with the donors and stakeholders.
- (e) On the professional skills that he has gained in public service that he would be utilize in his role as a chief Officer ,the nominee indicated that he possesses negotiation, research ,communication, leadership and team building skills. He also stated that he is a member of the International Research Institute.
- (f) When asked to indicate the policy measures that he would put in place to ensure that there is diversification in small scale sector especially in tea, dairy and livestock farming, the nominee indicated that he shall revive extension services. He also said that he shall encourage farmers to grow appropriate varieties of crops on the appropriate soil. He further indicated that he shall encourage farmers to use correct fertilizers and improve on breeds and feeding.
- (g) On the appropriate maize variety for Ndanai/Abosi, the nominee indicated that in his opinion DK 777 would be appropriate because it can withstand Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND).
- (h) When asked on some of the marketing strategies that he would employ to ensure that famers get markets for their produce, the nominee indicated that he would advocate for identification of consumers before production. He also said that he would urge famers to form co-operatives so as easily market their produce.
- (i) When asked on how the tea and dairy sectors can be enhanced so as to reduce poverty index in Bomet County which currently stands at 46% the nominee indicated that there is need to study the causes of low prices in tea and milk sector. He also indicated that there is need for value addition.
- (j) When asked on how he would deal with a possible competition between the Singoroi Community Milk processing plant and an upcoming private investor, the nominee indicated that he shall encourage competition. He also said that he shall advocate for the community based plant because it shall be run through a multi-purpose co-operative society.

- (k) On the strategies that he would put in place to ensure value addition, the nominee indicated that he shall entrench it in the CIDP and that he shall also encourage Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- (l) On the measures that he would in place to ensure that the prevalence of army worms and maize lethal necrosis disease is reduced, the nominee indicated that he shall advocate for push-pull technology to control army worms and planting of DK 777 to reduce the prevalence of MLND.
- (m) On how he would improve civic education on prevention of pests and diseases the nominee indicated that he shall use extension officers, public *barazas* and ICT to disseminate information to the farmers.
- (n) When asked on how he would implement the 7-point plan of the governor's manifesto, the nominee indicated it needs to be put in the CIDP for implementation.
- (o) On the how he would be bound by the National Values and Principles of Governance, the nominee indicated that he would be bound by those values while interpreting the Constitution, during decision making and implementation.
- (p) When asked on how he would ensure that Bomet County benefits from the pronouncement of the President that all the boots for the Kenya police and military shall be made locally, the nominee indicated that he shall do capacity building to ensure that people trade in hides and skin. He also indicated that he shall encourage value addition and advocate for a disease free zone.

5.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

The Committee having considered **Dr. Alexander K.Chirchir** as a nominee for the position of County Chief Officer, his curriculum vitae, academic qualification, experience and heard his oral submissions during the vetting exercise ,made the following observations:-

- i. That he is a holder of Bachelor of Science Degree (agri) from the University of Nairobi, Master of Science Degree (Plant Pathology) and PhD in Crop Protection from the University of Nairobi.
- ii. That he has extensive career in Agriculture having been employed in Mumia Sugar Company, the Kenya Sugar Research Foundation, Nzoia Sugar Company and the Ministry of Agriculture.

- iii. That he has clear understanding and appreciation of the role of the office of County Chief Officer as established under the relevant law.
- iv. That he had submitted required documents including clearance certificates from KRA, HELB, Criminal Investigation Department, Credit Reference Bureau and Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission for assessment of compliance with requirements of Leadership and Integrity Act.
- v. That on the basis of his professional background, his experience was relevant in discharging the mandate of the County Chief Officer, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.
- vi. The Committee found **Dr. Alexander K. Chirchir** suitable for appointment as the County Chief Officer in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE

At the end of the vetting process, the Committee made the following recommendation:-

That having considered the suitability, capacity and integrity of the nominee, and pursuant to **Section 9(2) of Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act No.5 of 2017**, the Committee recommends that the County Assembly **approves** the nomination and subsequent appointment of **Dr.Alexander K.Chirchir** as Bomet County Chief Officer, in charge of the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.