

Nkaissery nomination approved

Majority Leader says nominee satisfied the requirements of Chapter six of the Constitution

By RAWLINGS OTIENO

The National Assembly has approved the nomination of Kajiado Central MP Joseph Nkaissery as Interior Cabinet Secretary, paving the way for President Uhuru Kenyatta to formally appoint him.

Nkaissery was given a nod after the Committee on Appointments chaired by National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi tabled its report yesterday afternoon. The 26-member committee observed Nkaissery has a wealth of experience in the military, having been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1973 and rose to the ranks of Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Brigadier and Major General before retiring in 2002.

While tabling the report, National Assembly Majority Leader Aden Duale said Nkaissery had satisfied the requirements of Chapter six of the Constitution on leadership and integrity and was cleared by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Kenya Revenue Authority.

The committee noted that Nkaissery had exhibited impressive knowledge of topical issues touching on the

Interior docket and has the requisite qualifications and experience.

"The committee found the nominee suitable for appointment as the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government," said Mr Duale.

Minority Leader Francis Nyenze while seconding the report, told Nkaissery to implement the recommendations as outlined in his thesis regarding threats to Kenya's internal security.

"Nkaissery is a life member of ODM and CORD but more importantly, I urge Nkaissery if he is formally appointed, to restore security and order in the country," said Mr Nyenze.

CORRUPT FORCE

He said the problem with security in Kenya is not the absence of laws, but corruption among police officers, adding that police live in squalid conditions and earn meagre salaries that make them vulnerable to graft.

"Police and the National Intelligence Service should collect enough information on security threats and stop them before they happen," said Nyenze.

But Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter while standing on a point of order claimed he had read the mood of the House that there was no need for further contribution in the debate of approving Nkaissery's name.

The House then called the mover of the motion twice before approving Joseph Nkaissery to head the Interior ministry.



Joseph Nkaissery is set to replace Joseph ole Lenku as Interior Cabinet Secretary following the approval of his nomination by the National Assembly during a special session yesterday. (PHOTO: BONIFACE OKENDO/STANDARD)

Stage set for battle to take House seat

By WAHOME THUKU

The approval of Major General (Rtd) Joseph Nkaissery for the position of Interior Cabinet secretary has opened a political battle for his Kajiado Central parliamentary seat, pitting Jubilee against CORD.

Mr Nkaissery, an ODM legislator, is now required to resign as MP after being gazetted by the President and being sworn in as a Cabinet secretary. He will be relinquishing a seat he has held since 2002.

The Constitution prohibits anyone from holding two State offices. Specifically, Article 152(3) states a Cabinet secretary shall not be a Member of Parliament.

The Opposition will be fighting to retain the seat, the only one the coalition holds in the five constituencies of Kajiado County, while Jubilee will be seeking to add it to their "tyranny of numbers" in the House.

Nkaissery was born on November 28, 1949. He completed his secondary school education in 1970 and joined Kenyatta University College for an education course but left the following year to join the army as a cadet. He went to the Armed Forces Training College in Lanet and the India Military Academy.

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Parliament doesn't have final say on security bill, says ombudsman

By MAUREEN ODIWUOR

The country stands to lose hard gained freedoms under the guise of fighting terrorism, Commission on Administrative Justice (ombudsman) Chairman Otiende Amollo has said.

Mr Amollo (pictured), who was awarded a honorary Doctorate degree for his contribution to human rights and access to justice for the past two decades, said the Security Laws (Amendment) Bill 2014 should be reviewed.

"If the bill is passed without some clauses that are intimidating human rights changed, then we might end up suspending the entire regime of human rights," he said.

Amollo said that the country ought to be careful that even as security matters are given priority, the provisions of the Constitution are not compromised.

"We also support the idea of consultation and discussion including public participation. The Constitution requires consultation before any piece of legislation is passed," Amollo said.

He said if this is not adhered to,



then there is a high risk of passing legislation that the courts will declare unlawful.

"Parliament does not have a final say. Their decision can be challenged and declared unconstitutional," he said.

On the de-registered Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), he hopes due process was followed. He said they expected that prior to the de-registration, notices were issued and sufficient reasons given.

Amollo also doubted the possibility of only those with Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) qualifications teaching at the universities as had been insinuated by Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi.

CORRECTION

In a story carried on Wednesday titled "Labour court temporarily hands sacked IEBC Deputy CEO back his job", we implied that Dismas Ongondi was suspended after being charged in court with corruption and later sacked over the procurement of

EVID. Mr Ongondi has since clarified that he was not suspended prior to termination of his employment, and that the termination was not related to failures in financial management or procurement irregularities. We regret the error.