

SPECIAL ISSUE

Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 3 (Senate Bills No. 2)



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT

SENATE BILLS, 2026

NAIROBI, 16th January 2026

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**THE PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
(PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2026**

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to amend the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act to review the timeline for vetting of public appointees and for connected purposes

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya as follows —

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Short title.

2. Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act, is amended in subsection (1), by deleting the words “within twenty-eight days from the date on which the notification of nominations was given” immediately after the words “debate and decision”.

Amendment of section 8 of Cap 7F.

3. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 9.

Deletion of section 9 of Cap 7F.

4. The Principal Act, is amended by deleting section 13.

Deletion of section 13 of Cap 7F.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Statement of the Objects and Reasons for the Bill

The principal object of the Bill is to review the timeline within which the public appointees should be vetted by Parliament. As is, the Act provides that, parliament should consider nomination of the public appointees within twenty-eight days and table its report for debate and decision. The twenty-eight-day period is not sufficient for Parliament to consider the nominees' suitability leading to approval or rejection of their nominations hence the need to give Parliament sufficient time to look into the same.

Section 7 of the Act covers the issues to be considered by Parliament in vetting the nominees. Some of the issues that call for the Parliament's attention in the vetting process include the statutory requirements relating to the office in question which require sufficient time to interrogate hence the need to amend the Act to do away with the statutory twenty-eight-day period within which Parliament has to vet and report on the suitability of the nominee.

Statement on the delegation of legislative powers and limitation of fundamental rights and freedoms

The Bill does not delegate legislative powers nor does it limit the fundamental rights and freedoms.

Statement on how the Bill concerns county governments

Some of the approvals of the Public Appointment nominees, like that of the Commissioners of the Parliamentary Service Commission, are done by both the Senate and the National Assembly as provided for under Article 127(2)(C) of the Constitution, hence the Bill concerns county governments since it touches on the role of the Senate.

This is therefore a Bill that concerns counties in terms of Article 110(1) (a) of the Constitution.

Statement that the Bill is not a money Bill, within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution

This Bill is not a money Bill within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution.

Dated the 20th August, 2026.

MOGENI ERICK OKONGO.

Senator.

Section 8 of Cap 7F of the laws of Kenya, which it is proposed to amend-

8. Period for consideration and report

(1) Unless otherwise provided in any law, a Committee shall consider a nomination and table its report in the relevant House for debate and decision within twenty-eight days from the date on which the notification of nomination was given in accordance with section 5

Section 9 of Cap 7F of the laws of Kenya, which it is proposed to amend-

9. Failure of Parliament to act on nomination

If, after expiry of the period for consideration specified in section 8, Parliament has neither approved nor rejected a nomination of a candidate, the candidate shall be deemed to have been approved.

Section 13 of Cap 7F of the laws of Kenya, which it is proposed to amend-

13. Extension of time

(1) Despite the provisions of this Act or any other written law, where a time is prescribed for doing an act or taking a proceeding by the National Assembly relating to a public appointment, the National Assembly may, by resolution, extend that time by a period not exceeding fourteen days.

(2) Where an extension of time is granted under subsection (1), the doing of all other acts consequential thereto shall be deemed to have been extended accordingly.

(3) The power of the National Assembly contemplated under subsection (1), may be exercised —

(a) only once in a session of the National Assembly in respect of a particular matter; and

(b) only in exceptional circumstances to be certified by the Speaker.