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NO. 33 OF 2011

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) ACT

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NO. 33 OF 2011

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) ACT

[Date of assent: 11th November, 2011.]

[Date of commencement: 14th November, 2011.]

An Act of the Parliament to provide for procedures for parliamentary approval of constitutional and statutory appointments and for connected purposes

[Act No. 33 of 2011, Act No. 18 of 2014, Act No. 20 of 2020.]

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**appointment**" includes any re-appointment to the same body, whether or not in the same capacity;

"**appointing authority**" means any person who, under the Constitution or any other law, is required to make an appointment for which the approval of Parliament is required;

"**candidate**" means a person who has been proposed or nominated for appointment to a public office;

"**Clerk**" means the Clerk of the relevant House of Parliament; and

"**Committee**" means the relevant committee of Parliament or such other Committee as the Speaker may, for good reasons, direct.

3. Exercise of powers of appointment

An appointment under the Constitution or any other law for which the approval of Parliament is required shall not be made unless the appointment is approved or deemed to have been approved by Parliament in accordance with this Act.

4. Notification of vetting requirements

Any advertisement inviting applications for nomination for appointment to an office to which this Act applies shall indicate that candidates so nominated shall be required to appear before a committee of Parliament for vetting.

5. Notification of nomination

(1) An appointing authority shall, upon nominating a person for an appointment to which this Act applies, notify the relevant House of Parliament accordingly.

(2) A notification under subsection (1) shall be —

(a) in writing;

(b) be lodged with the Clerk of the relevant House of Parliament.

(3) A notification of appointment shall be accompanied by information concerning the nominee, having regard to the issues mentioned in section 7.

(4) For purposes of this Act, a notification of nomination shall be deemed to be duly given on the day on which it complies fully with subsections (2) and (3).

6. Approval hearing

(1) Upon receipt of a notification of appointment, the Clerk shall invite the Committee to hold an approval hearing.

(2) The Committee shall determine the time and place for the holding of the approval hearing and shall inform the Clerk.

(3) The Clerk shall notify a candidate of the time and place for the holding of an approval hearing.

(4) The Committee shall notify the public of the time and place for holding an approval hearing at least seven day prior to the hearing.

(5) Subject to this Act, all Committee proceedings on public appointments shall be open and transparent.

(6) Despite subsection (5), a Committee may, on its own motion or on the application of a candidate or any other concerned person, determine that the whole or part of its sittings shall be held in camera.

(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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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 thereupon lapse.

7. Issues for consideration

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
- (c) 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.

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.

(2) At the conclusion of an approval hearing, the Committee shall prepare its report on the suitability of the candidate to be appointed to the office to which the candidate has been nominated, and shall include in the report, such recommendations as the Committee may consider necessary.

[Act No. 20 of 2020, Sch.]

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.

10. Rejection of nomination

Where the nomination of a candidate is rejected by Parliament, the appointing authority may submit to the relevant House the name of another candidate, and the procedure for approval specified in this Act shall apply accordingly.

11. Notification of decision

The Clerk shall notify the appointing authority of the decision of the relevant House of Parliament within seven days of the decision.

12. Powers of the committee

(1) The committee shall have power to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information during approval hearing.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1), the committee shall have the same powers as the High Court to—

- (a) enforce the attendance of witnesses and examine them on oath, affirmation or otherwise;
- (b) compel the production of documents; and
- (c) issue a commission or request to examine witnesses abroad.

(3) Any person who—

- (a) disobeys any order made by a committee for attendance or for production of papers, books, documents or records; or
- (b) refuses to be examined before, or to answer any lawful and relevant question put by, a committee,

commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both.

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.

[Act No. 18 of 2014, Sch.]

SCHEDULE

[Section 6(8).]

**CRITERIA FOR VETTING/APPROVAL OF NOMINEES FOR
APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC OFFICE BY PARLIAMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Notes:

- (a) This questionnaire applies to appointments to public office arising by or under the Constitution or any other law where parliamentary approval is required.
 - (b) The questionnaire shall be used by the relevant parliamentary committee to vet a nominee appearing before the committee in the process of parliamentary approval.
 - (c) The questionnaire shall be filled and submitted by the nominee to the relevant parliamentary committee through the Clerk of the relevant House of Parliament on or before a date set by the committee.
 - (d) The submission of false information in the questionnaire is an offence and may result in prosecution.
 - (e) Any form of canvassing by a nominee shall lead to disqualification.
 - (f) The nominee must answer all the questions.
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1. **Name:** (State full name).
 2. **Position:** (State office to which you have been nominated).
 3. **Sex:**
 4. **Date of Birth:** (State year and place of birth).
 5. **Marital Status:**
 6. **Daytime phone number:**
 7. **Mobile phone number:**
 8. **Email Address:**
 9. **ID Number:**
 10. **PIN Number:**
 11. **Nationality:**
 12. **Postal Address:**
 13. **Town/City:**
 14. **Knowledge of Languages:** (Specify Languages).
 15. **Education:** (List, in reverse chronological order, each university, college, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate, in respect of each, the dates of attendance, academic award obtained, whether a degree was awarded, and the dates on which each such degree was awarded).
- Employment Record:** (List in reverse chronological order all government agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms or other
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enterprises with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, employee or consultant).

16. Honours and Awards: (List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honours, honorary society memberships, military awards and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement and in respect of each, state the date of award and the institution or organization that made the award).

17. Professional Association (where applicable): (List all professional associations of which you are or have a member and give any positions held and the respective dates when each such position was held).

18. Memberships: (List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable or other organizations, (other than those listed in response to Question 16) to which you belong or have belonged).

19. Published Writings:

- (a) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports letters to the editor, editorial pieces or other published materials you have authored or edited.
- (b) Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of any bar association, committee, conference or organization of which you were a member.

20. Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:

- (a) List chronologically any public offices you have held or are currently holding, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed.
- (b) List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities. Also include any linkage you have to a political party at present.
- (c) Have you ever been dismissed or otherwise removed from office for a contravention of the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution?
- (d) Have you ever been adversely associated with practices that depict bias, favouritism or nepotism in the discharge of public duties?

21. Deferred Income/Future Benefits: (List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, etc).

22. Outside commitment during service in office: (Do you have any plans, commitments or agreements to pursue outside employment with or without compensation during your service in office? If so explain).

23. Sources of Income: (List sources and mounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and in the current calendar year).

24. Tax Status: (State whether you have fully complied with your tax obligations to the State up to the end of the financial year immediately preceding the nomination for appointment).

25. Statement of Net Worth: (State your financial net worth).

26. Potential Conflicts of Interest:

- (a) Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation or financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.
- (b) Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

27. Pro-Bono/Charity Work/Donations to charity: (Describe what you have done by way of pro bono or charity work, listing specific instances, the amount contributed and the amount of time devoted to each).

28. Have you ever been charged in a court or law in the last three years? If so, specify the nature of the charge, where the matter is ongoing, the present status of the matter, or where the matter is concluded, the judgment of the court, or otherwise, how the case was concluded.

29. Have you ever been adversely mentioned in an investigatory report of Parliament or any other Commission of inquiry in the last three years?

30. Have you any objection to the making of enquiries with your present employer/ referees in the course of consideration of your nomination?

31. References: (List three persons who are not your relatives who are familiar with your character, qualification and work).
