Education Cabinet Secretary re-appoints Commission Board

Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha has re-appointed the Commission for University Education (CUE) board to serve for a period of three years effective 7th August 2020.

In a Kenya Gazette notice dated 7th August, 2020, Prof. Magoha appointed Prof. Anne Muigai, Dr. Elizabeth Muli, Senior Counsel Lucy Kambuni and Eng. David Onyango alongside representatives of different institutions. The board will be chaired by Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha.

Other Board members are Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, Principal Secretary for University Education and Research, Dr. Julius Muia, Principal Secretary-National Treasury, Mr. Victor Momanyi, Representative of Inspector, General (Corporations) and Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, Commission Secretary/CEO.

The commissioners were first appointed for the same position in April 12, 2017 and their term had ended on April 2020. The composition of the Commission Board and their professional background is listed as below:

Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha has served as an executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (2000–2010) and was the first CEO of the Higher Education Loans Board (1995–2000). He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Kenyan Commission for University Education (CUE).
Amb. Simon Nabukwesi holds a B.Ed., M. Ed. in Education Planning and Management and MA in International Project Management. He is a PhD Candidate in International Project Management. He also holds a Diploma Level training in Institutional Management from Hiroshima University, Japan and a Pre-university Training at the National Youth Service (1986). Amb. Nabukwesi has also served as Kenya’s High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extra-ordinary to Cuba. His eleven (11) years of service as a diplomat included being the Director of Foreign Service Institute which he worked to transform into the Foreign Service Academy for training Junior Diplomats, Middle level Diplomats, Senior Diplomats and eight (8) Cohorts of Ambassadors whom he took through induction courses.

Amb. Simon Nabukwesi is the current Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research. He represents the Ministry of Education in the CUE Board.

Dr. Julius Muia
Principal Secretary,
National Treasury, Member

Dr. Muia is the Principal Secretary at The National Treasury. He represents the latter in the CUE Board. Previously, he was the Principal Secretary at the State Department for Planning - The National Treasury and Planning. Before his appointment as PS Planning, he was the Director General, Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat which operated under the Office of the President, Republic of Kenya to facilitate the implementation of Vision 2030. Between April 2008 and October 2016, Dr. Muia served as the Secretary, National Economic and Social Council, Office of the President. An alumnus of the University of Nairobi’s School of Business, Dr Julius Muia graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Accounting; Masters Degree and PhD in Finance from the same university. His professional qualifications include: Certified Public Accountant (CPA-K); Certified Public Secretary (CPS-K), Associate Kenya Institute of Bankers; Associate Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; and Certified Coach. Dr. Muia has over 25 years’ experience in leadership in the private sector in Kenya and UK. He started his career as an auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers in mid 1980’s, and later worked as Head of Finance and Company Secretary in the hotel, manufacturing and banking sector. His other engagements include an adjunct faculty at Strathmore Business School; adviser on strategy and trainer on leadership. Dr. Julius Muia serves as a non-executive board member in several companies and a number of not-for-profit organizations.
Prof. Anne Muigai
Commissioner

Prof. Anne Muigai represents private universities in the CUE Board. She holds a doctorate degree in Population Genetics and Molecular Biology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). She is a Professor of Genetics in the JCUAT Botany Department with over 19 years’ experience. Prof. Muigai is also member of the World Health Organization (WHO) advisory committee on developing global standards for governance and oversight of human genome editing. She is also a Taxonomy Group Member of the African Union, advising on issues relating to genetic resources of indigenous animals. Prof. Muigai has published over 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Elizabeth Muli
Commissioner

Dr. Elizabeth W. Muli represents the Private universities in the Commission for University Education Board. Dr. Muli is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi School of Law and Chairperson of the Commercial Law Department. She has taught law for twenty years at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya of over 20 years standing and a member of the Law Society of Kenya. She is also a member of The Institute of Directors Kenya (IOD) and serves on the boards of other organizations in the public and private sector. She has previously served as the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) between 2011 and 2015. Dr. Muli is a Fulbright Fellow and holds a Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD) and Master of the Science of Law (JSM) from Stanford Law School, a Master of Laws (LLM) from University of Bristol (UK), a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from University of Nairobi and a Diploma of Law. Dr. Muli represents Public Universities at Council and chairs the Audit Committee. She chairs the Audit, Governance & Risk Management Committee.
Senior Counsel (SC) Lucy Kambuni
Commissioner

SC Kambuni is an eminent legal practitioner with established competence and experience in both criminal and international law. SC Kambuni has practised law for over thirty-two years, in addition to holding key positions of governance in the private sector and serving the nation in delicate undertakings of great public interest. She has also taught law at undergraduate level and at the Kenya School of Law. In 2005, elected as the first woman Vice-Chairperson of the Law Society of Kenya. In 2008, SC Kambuni was appointed Commissioner to Independent Review Commission commonly known as ‘the Kriegler Commission’ that looked into the General Elections held in Kenya on 27th December, 2007 and in particular, the Presidential elections that were gravely contested, occasioning the post-election violence of 2007-2008. In 2012, Kambuni was conferred the rank of Senior Counsel (SC) by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Kenya pursuant to section 17 (1) of the Advocates Act Chapter 16 of the Laws of Kenya, in recognition of exemplary service to the legal and public service. She was appointed the same year as a member to the Working Committee to advise the government on the case before the International Criminal Court. SC Kambuni has taught relevant courses, including Trial Advocacy and the Law of Evidence at the Kenyatta University School of Law. At the Kenya School of Law, SC Kambuni taught Professional Ethics and Practice, testimony to her commitment to contribute to the professionalism and ethical conduct of the Kenyan Bar.

In 2015, President Uhuru Kenyatta appointed Ms. Kambuni as the Lead Assisting Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry into the Petition to Suspend the Makueni County Government, following numerous complaints by residents, including that both the County Executive and County Assembly had grossly misappropriated funds allocated for the development of the County. Ms. Kambuni, alongside the State Counsel assigned to the Commission, ensured that all relevant witnesses were interviewed and their evidence adduced before the Commission. Ms. Kambuni participated in the drafting of the Report of the Commission.

Commissioner Eng. David Onyango
Commissioner

In the Commission for University Education Board, Eng. Onyango represents the Federation of Kenya Employers. Eng. David Onyango has served in various capacities in both private and public sectors. His area of specialization has been in the water sector where he was involved with engineering designs and construction of various water facilities. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director of the Kisumu Water and Sewerage Company Limited. Eng. Onyango also served as a member of the board of the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA). GWOPA is a UN-Habitat body promoting improvement of water services in the world. He has also in the Board of Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) to articulate the interests of employers, National Wages Council, a national body mandated by the Ministry of Labour to
advice on wages and conditions of employment and a taskforce member on NRW reduction in Africa. In 2013, David was honoured with a state medal conferred by the President of Kenya for distinguished service to the Nation. Commissioner Onyango holds a Civil Engineering degree from Nairobi University, Masters in Construction Engineering and Management, Loughborough University UK and a MBA from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands.

Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi - Commission Secretary/CEO

Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi is the Secretary/CEO for Commission for University Education. He holds a B.Ed. (Language Education) and MA (Swahili Cultural Studies) from Kenyatta University and a MA and PhD (Cultural Anthropology) from the University of Illinois. He most recently served as Vice President at Theological Network. He previously served as the Executive Director International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE) and Associate Director Office of Off - Campus Programs, Calvin College. Prof. Ntarangwi served as the Director, African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) at Calvin College, Director and Assistant Professor St Lawrence University - Kenya Semester Program, Assistant Director Academic Program and Students - St Lawrence University - Kenya Semester Program and an Associate Professor of Anthropology.

The Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha has appointed CUE staff Mr. Isaac W. Gathirwa as appointed as a KNQA Council member. Mr. Gathirwa is an Advocate of the High Court and is currently the Head of Legal and Enforcement Department at Commission for University Education (CUE). In the KNQA Council he represents the Commission for University Education. Mr. Gathirwa is currently pursuing LLD at the University of Nairobi. He holds a master’s in law (LL.M) (UoN), Masters in Business Administration (Strategic Management option) (KU) and Bachelors in Law (LL. B) (Moij). He is a member of Law Society of Kenya and ICPSK. He has practiced Law both in the private and public sectors. In the public sector he has risen through the ranks to his current position of Chief Legal Officer.

Also in the Cabinet Secretary’s list is a Commission Staff, Mr. Isaac Gathirwa, HoD Legal and Enforcement who was also re-appointed a council member Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) board. Mr. Gathirwa was re-appointed with other members: Hirji Shah, Stephen Ogenga, Isaiah Ochelle, Rosemary Njogu, Kipkirui Lang’at, Gwiyo Komora and Damaris Muhika. Former Education assistant minister Kilemi Mwiria was appointed the chairperson of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority.