

**KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**For Immediate Release**

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**A call to public participation in the vetting of nominees for cabinet secretaries**

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, as part of our 10 point human rights agenda for the government, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights made a call through an advertorial that all appointments to public office be made in accordance with the constitution.

We are encouraged that in the ongoing nominations to the office of cabinet secretary, there is a deliberate attempt by the President to infuse professionalism, regional balance, and most importantly gender considerations. Notably, this is in line with the President's remarks during the state opening of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament on April 16, 2013 where he expressed commitment to a lean and effective government. The President was emphatic that he would not only be reducing the number of ministries but he would restructure the entire government and streamline public agencies to end the confusing and wasteful overlap of responsibilities and create a government that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Guided by the foregoing, the President settled on 18 ministries thereby affirming his commitment to reduce public wage bill.

In nominating the candidates, the President has fulfilled his constitutional duty. The responsibility of ensuring that the country shall be served by men and women who meet the requirements of article 10 and chapter 6 of the constitution now rests with the 28 member Parliamentary Committee on Appointments.

One of the key principles of Article 10 of the constitution requires that there shall be participation of the people. In accordance with this article, the vetting committee shall be inviting members of the public to make submissions that will guide them in determining the suitability of the candidates. We therefore urge all Kenyans to familiarise themselves with chapter 6 of the constitution and the leadership and integrity Act 2012 which require selection to public office be on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability.

In undertaking this important assignment, the national assembly acts on behalf of the People of Kenya in whom all Sovereign power is vested. It is our continued expectation that as they execute this mandate they shall do so in accordance with the constitution.

**Signed**

**Patricia Nyaundi**

**CEO, KNCHR**