



PRESS RELEASE

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27TH JANUARY, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF KENYA ROADS BOARD (KRB) CHAIRPERSON

The appointment of the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) Chairperson, as stated in Gazette Notice No. 395 dated 17th January, 2025, reflects a non-executive position held by Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana. However, this appointment raises concerns about alignment with the Kenya Roads Board Act No. 7 of 1999 (Rev. 2023), particularly with regard to the membership and the selection process for the Board.

(1) The Board shall consist of –

- (a) **a non-executive chairman to be appointed by the President from among the members appointed under paragraph (h);**
- (b) the Director General whose position shall be filled through public advertisement;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for the time being responsible for matters relating to roads or his designated alternate, not being below the level of Deputy Secretary;
- (d) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for the time being responsible for matters relating to finance or his designated alternate, not being below the level of Deputy Secretary;
- (e) the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for the time being responsible for local authorities or his designated alternate not below the level of Deputy Secretary;
- (f) the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for the time being responsible for matters relating to regional co-operation or his designated alternate, not being below the level of Deputy Secretary;
- (g) deleted by Act No. 4 of 2023, s. 76(a);



(h) five other members comprising, representatives of each of the organizations specified in the First Schedule and appointed by the Minister from amongst three persons nominated by each of the organizations.

Further, the First Schedule of the Act provides that the following five (5) organizations may nominate representatives to be appointed members of the Board by the Minister;

1. The Institution of Engineers of Kenya.
2. The Automobile Association of Kenya.
3. The Kenya Association of Manufacturers.
4. The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya.
5. The Kenya Transport Association.

Given that the core mandate of KRB revolves around road development, maintenance, and overall infrastructure management, the appointment of an engineering professional preferably someone with a background in civil, structural, or transport engineering could provide essential expertise in handling the technical aspects of the board's responsibilities.

The KRB is heavily involved in engineering work, such as overseeing the condition of roads, advising on road construction standards, and ensuring that projects are carried out effectively from a technical standpoint. Thus, an individual with hands-on engineering experience would possess the necessary skills and insights to lead the Board in achieving these objectives.

Moreover, the **Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK)**, as listed in the First Schedule of the Act, is one of the organizations entitled to nominate members to the Board. This implies a strong link between the engineering profession and KRB's function. Appointing an engineer as the chairperson would align with the Act's spirit by reflecting the technical importance of engineering knowledge within the leadership of the Board.



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As highlighted, the current appointment of Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana does not appear to be in accordance with the KRB Act, specifically in terms of the appointment process outlined in Section 7. The Act mandates that the non-executive chairman be appointed from among the members nominated by the organizations listed in the First Schedule. However, Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana does not represent any of these organizations, raising questions about the adherence to statutory provisions in her appointment.

To ensure that the leadership of KRB is in line with its legal framework and technical requirements, it is recommended that appointments consider individuals with relevant professional backgrounds. This would not only strengthen KRB's capacity to address engineering and infrastructure challenges but also enhance its credibility in overseeing projects that require technical expertise. We therefore call for immediate revocation of the appointment of Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana as KRB Chair and the appointment of a suitably qualified Chair in compliance with the law.

Signed

Eng. Shammah Kiteme, CE, FIEK

President

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

ABOUT IEK

The Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) is the learned society of the engineering profession in Kenya. Its mission is to promote, encourage, and improve the application of Engineering and other related practices. IEK has over 12000 members drawn from engineers working in various government institutions (both national and county), consultancies, contractors, educators, designers and manufacturers. One of the goals of the Institution is to disseminate knowledge and skills by holding talks where current and pertinent issues in all branches of engineering are discussed.