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The Hon. Zaid Odingo
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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION - 2018

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL COHESION AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY

REPORT ON

PARLIAMEN
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

BENCHMARKING VISIT TO RWANDA

5TH TO 9TH MARCH, 2018

KIGALI, RWANDA



CLERKS CHAMBERS

DIRECTORATE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

NAIROBI

SEPTEMBER, 2018

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List of Acronyms

Acronyms	Signification
CNLG	National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide
ERG	Association of Students Survivors of Genocide
NAR	Never Again Rwanda
NCIC	National Cohesion and Integration Commission
NURC	National Unity and Reconciliation Commission
RGB	Rwanda Governance Board
RNP	Rwanda National Police

Chairperson's Foreword

The Select Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity is established under S.O 212 (C). One of its functions is to monitor and promote measures relating to policy and program initiatives in pursuit of peace and national cohesion.

As part of its capacity building, the Committee received an invitation by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission to undertake a benchmarking visit to Rwanda. The visit took place from 5th to 9th March, 2018. The trip was very relevant to the Committee's mandate given that Rwanda has gone through genocide and has now recovered and is working on ensuring there is sustainable peaceful co-existence in the country.

The Committee is grateful to the offices of the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for the support accorded to it in the implementation of its mandate and the opportunity given to its Members to undertake the visit to Rwanda.

Additionally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the study visit and preparation of this Report.

Finally, it is my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Select Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity to table this report on the Committee's study visit to Rwanda

Hon. Maina Kamanda EGH, M.P

Executive Summary

The Select Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity cognizant of its mandate and the need to build the capacity of its Members, the Committee resolved to undertake a benchmarking visit to Rwanda. The visit was conducted jointly with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission.

In 2017, there was a prolonged election campaign period in Kenya as there were two presidential elections on August 8, 2017 and October 26, 2017. Politics in Kenya is very adversarial. This brought a lot of acrimony between various political parties and ethnic groups. The economy was also affected as the environment was not conducive for business. The country is still recovering from the effects of the elections.

It is in light of this background that the Committee in seeking ways to foster peace and national cohesion in conjunction with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission undertook a benchmarking visit to Rwanda. Rwanda as a nation has recovered from a genocide that led to the loss of many lives. The country seems to have gone over the sad moments and peace is eventually being witnessed. So many measures seem to have been put in place to achieve this including the genocide memorial sites, cultural museums, establishment of peace clubs in the learning institutions and launching community peace initiatives across the country.

The Committee observed that Rwanda has adopted the policy of finding “homegrown solutions” to its problems. The country recognizes the fact that since the problems arise from within, the solutions should also be found within. The Committee also observed that to deal with ethnicity, Rwanda has criminalized reference to tribes. The Committee further observed that the electioneering period in Rwanda is by law only three weeks. This discourages exhaustion by the candidates who may look for the easy way out of relying on their ethnicity.

From the observations and discussions, the Committee recommends that the country should seek to find solutions to its problems from within as this will address the real needs of its citizens. The country should also adopt policies and programmes to foster nationalism and decrease the adverse effects of ethnicity. The Committee further recommends that the legislation should be amended to provide for sharing of government positions so that the losing party does not feel left out of government. The law should also be amended to reduce the electioneering period.