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**INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY  
CONFERENCE  
MOSCOW, 15 -16 JUNE 2010  
RUSSIA**

**REPORT OF THE KENYA  
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE  
RUSSIA-AFRICA:-  
HORIZONS OF COOPERATION  
CONFERENCE**

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## PREFACE

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The International Parliamentary Conference “**Russia - Africa: Horizons of Cooperation**” was held in Moscow, Russia on June 15 - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The conference was organized by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and brought together 39 African Parliaments. The main objective of the Conference was to strengthen the role of the Russian-African parliamentary diplomacy in addressing various topical issues of the modern world in the spheres of emerging politics, economics and humanities as well as other issues of mutual interest regarding the inter-parliamentary cooperation between Russia and Africa, and the Kenya Parliament in particular.

The Kenyan Parliament was represented in the Moscow Parliamentary Conference by a delegation comprising of four (4) Members of Parliament and one (1) parliamentary staff, as follows:-

1. The Hon. Adan W. Keynan, M.P - **Leader of the delegation;**
2. The Hon. John Ngata Kariuki, M.P
3. The Hon. Maison Leshoomo, M.P
4. The Hon. Simon Ogari Nyaundi, M.P
5. Mr. Peter Ochieng' Adika, Research Officer and Secretary to the delegation.

The two-day conference discussed among other things the role of the Russian parliamentary diplomacy in solving the problems of providing safety and democratic development on the African continent, enhancing co-operation in the sphere of economy between Russia and Africa; - in particular, what our parliamentarians can do to identify, widen and strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation and how they should do it. The conference also held discussions on the humanities front within the focus of the Russia-Africa inter-parliamentary co-operation. This forum is expected to be regular and targeted to translate recommendations into real action.

The plenary and thematic round-table discussions culminated into conclusions and recommendations which will be crystallized and on the

basis of which, an action plan will be developed by the Conference's coordinating committee and forwarded to the Speakers of African Parliaments including Heads of all participating African States at the Russia-Africa Summit for approval and later implementation.

This report seeks to highlight some of the key issues that arose out of the presentations and deliberations, and makes some suggestions and recommendations on the way forward towards strengthening and achieving a sustainable Russia-Africa inter-parliamentary co-operation and indeed the promotion of more cordial relations between our countries.

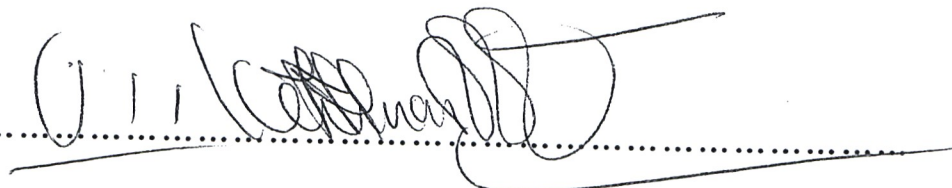
Mr. Speaker, sir,

The delegation is most grateful to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly of Kenya for the necessary support and arrangements made to facilitate the delegation to travel and participate in the Moscow Parliamentary Conference. I also wish to sincerely thank members of the delegation for their co-operation and enriching participation.

On behalf of the delegation, I now present with great honour and pleasure this Report and request the House to consider and adopt it.

Thank you.

Signed.....



LEADER OF THE DELEGATION  
(HON. ADAN W. KEYNAN)

Date:-.....

28/6/2010



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Parliamentary Conference whose theme was “**Russia-Africa: Horizons of Co-operation**” was held in Moscow on June 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It was organized by the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

The Conference brought together Senior Parliamentary Leaders of the State Duma, members of the Federation Council of Russia, Members of Parliament from various African countries, Ambassadors of the African countries, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, representatives of other governmental institutions, business community and experts from Russia and 39 African countries.

The Conference was held against the premise that while Russia which had played a pivotal role in the decolonization and development of Africa in the 1990s, due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the economic and political ties have weakened significantly and needed to be revamped and strengthened for mutual benefit.

The Moscow Conference and Business Forum which had two plenary sessions, diverse thematic round tables, seminars and bilateral talks, were convened to provide a platform for holding open and interactive discussions on the role of Russian parliamentary diplomacy in resolving security and democratic development issues on the African continent; on widening and deepening trade and economic co-operation between Russia and Africa and on the humanitarian sphere as an object of the Russia-Africa inter-parliamentary cooperation. Kenya’s specific case is clearly articulated by the leader of the delegation on pages 15, 16 and 17 of this report.

Modern Parliaments including Kenya’s Parliament are expected to play a more pro-active and definitive role in the development of relations between our countries, because they, on the one hand, represent the peoples, and on the other hand, adopt bills, enact legislation, ratify international treaties and perform active inter-parliamentary dialogue.

The overriding spirit of the Conference was captured by the declaration by Russian political leaders that *Russia should return to Africa* and that the envisioned partnership and bilateral relations should be based on mutual respect, mutual benefit and free from all ideological dogmas.



The Conference aim drawn from plenary discussions and thematic round-table discussions was to promote the *building of bridges* between Russia and Africa, with Africa as a valuable and strategic partner, to provide a mechanism through which Russian experience and achievements could be applied in a more coherent approach for the benefit of African development in all spheres.

Today, Africa accounts for less than two (2) per cent of Russia's total international trade. Yet, the African continent is endowed with enormous natural and mineral resources which Russia could help to exploit and positively impact on Africa's growth. Moreover, Africa is now conscious of the need to adhere to global environment-protection regimes and has a significant reservoir of human resources ready for active engagement in the continental and global economy, but also offers a vast potential market for both global traders and investors.

Russia is expected to open its markets to African products, in particular, agricultural products, support programmes that promote and ensure growth of Africa's tourism sector, assist in upgrading all categories of infrastructure to boost industrialization. To enhance relations, direct air connections between Russia and Africa's cities is considered a sure guarantee, and should be re-established and developed.

On account of the increasing significance of the regional and Panafrican Parliaments, special attention should be paid to direct contacts between the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and the Panafrican Parliament.

The International Parliamentary Conference *Russia-Africa: New Horizons in Moscow* aims to further strengthen friendship and solidarity between our countries and enhance our multilateral relations in all spheres that will be mutually beneficial not only to the parliamentarians but also to members of the social and business circles and also put emphasis on promoting the ideals of democracy and progress in the world.

Finally, the report briefly highlights key issues and challenges facing Kenyan students in Russia and embassy officials in Moscow. The delegation has made recommendations in this report based on discussions held with them.



## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1. Kenya located in the eastern coast of Africa (and bordered by Somali to the east, Ethiopia to the north, Sudan to the north-west, Uganda to the west and Tanzania to the south) covers a geographical area of 582,650 sq km. Kenya has a GDP of about US\$ 28.073 billion which makes it the largest economy in the East African region, and is strategically located as the gateway for trade to the landlocked countries in Eastern and Central Africa.
2. Trade has expanded substantially since the introduction of liberalization reforms, with exports increasing from US \$ 2.7billion in the year 2004 to US \$ 4.9billion in 2008 registering an annual average growth of 16.5 per cent. The upward trend in export growth is to be maintained under the country's Vision 2030 policy framework, in which the trade sector is expected to contribute significantly towards the attainment of economic growth target of 10% in the planning horizon.
3. Following the global economic downturn experienced in 2009, world trade contracted in volume terms. Kenya's volume of merchandise trade grew by a paltry 1.6 per cent in 2009 compared to 26.8 per cent in 2008 while trade balance deteriorated by 4.1 per cent compared to a deterioration of 28.8 per cent in the previous period.
4. The main exports are dominated by primary commodities including horticulture, tea, articles of apparels and clothing, soda ash, coffee and pyrethrum which together account for over 60% of total exports. Further, the key regional destinations for Kenya's products are concentrated within the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), European Union (EU) and other African countries.
5. Bilateral trade between Kenya and the Russian Federation has been expanding over the period 2004-2008 with the value of exports rising from US \$ 13million in 2004 to US \$ 49.2 million in 2008, an annual average growth of 39.4% while imports from the Russian Federation grew from US \$ 30.6 million in 2004 to US \$ 166million during the same period.

6. The trade balance over the last 5 years has been continually in favour of the Russian Federation and the trend doesn't show signs of reversal at the moment. Kenya's main exports to the Russian Federation are black tea (84.12 % of total exports), cut flowers (6.5%) and tobacco (6.27%). Kenya's mainly imports wheat, fertilizer and light petroleum distillates from the Russian Federation.
7. Trade between Kenya and the Russian Federation is narrowly concentrated within a few commodities and there is compelling need for diversification of the basket of products traded between our countries. Studies conducted by Kenya's Export Promotion Council reveal that Kenya is a marginal supplier to the Russian Federation having an import market share of 0.02%. The Russian Federation is also not a significant exporter to Kenya having an export market share of 0.99% of Kenya's total exports and a market share of 1.46% of Kenya's global imports over the last 5 years.
8. Kenyan products that have export potential to the Russian Federation and may have considerable market presence include; black tea and cut flowers and tobacco. But these need more value addition in terms of improved packaging and targeting top-level markets to compete effectively with other international brands.
9. At the moment, Kenya does not have any preferential market access arrangements with the Russian Federation. Therefore, the initiative and participation by Parliament in the Moscow Conference to help identify measures that need to be taken to consolidate and enhance Kenya's position in the Russian Federation market is timely and needs to be sustained because it will go a long way in ensuring market penetration for identified products.



## 2.0 THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE "RUSSIA-AFRICA: HORIZONS OF CO-OPERATION" - MOSCOW, RUSSIA

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

10. The International Parliamentary Conference whose theme was **"Russia- Africa: Horizons of Co-operation"** was held in Moscow on June 15 - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. In attendance at the Conference were Senior Officials of the State Duma of Russia, Members of the Federation Council of Russia, Ambassadors of participating African Countries, representatives of other governmental institutions, business community and experts from Russia and 39 African Countries.
11. The Kenyan Parliament was represented by a delegation which comprised of:-
  1. The Hon. Adan W. Keynan, M.P - **Leader of the delegation.**
  2. The Hon. John Ngata Kariuki, M.P
  3. The Hon. Maisson Leshoomo, M.P
  4. The Hon. Simon Ogari Nyaundi, M.P
  5. Mr. Peter Ochieng' Adika, Research Officer and Secretary to the delegation.
12. The Conference which also served as a business forum had two plenary sessions and diverse workshops, thematic round tables, seminars and bilateral talks.
13. The Conference was convened to hold open and interactive discussions on among other things:-
  1. The role of Russian parliamentary diplomacy in resolving security and democratic development issues on the African Continent;
  2. The strengthening of the trade and economic co-operation between Russia and Africa;
  3. The humanitarian sphere as an object of the Russia-Africa inter-parliamentary co-operation.

## 2.2 OPENING CEREMONY

14. The conference was officially opened by the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Hon. B.V. Gryzlov

Other opening statements were made by the following dignitaries:

1. The Hon. Mr. Boris Gryzlov, Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
2. Mr. A.V. Saltanov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
3. Mr. El Houderi Mohammed Elmadani, Chairman of the Committee on Education of the Pan-African Parliament on behalf of the Chairman of the Pan-African Parliament, Mr. Idriss Ndele Moussa.
4. Mr. A.M. Vasiliev, Special Representative of the President of Russia for Relations with African Countries Leaders, Director of the African Institute of the Russian Academy
5. Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Unido Secretary General - greetings taped video
6. Mr. Aleksander Torshin, First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council, Chairman of the Commission on international regional co-operation
7. Dr. Badarch Dendev, Representative of the UNESCO General secretary
8. H.E Rogerio Araujo Adolfo Herbert, Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau on behalf of ambassadors of the African Countries
9. Mr. K.M Mamadou, President of the Association of the African Students of the People's Friendship University

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS

15. In his official opening remarks, Hon. Boris Gryzlov observed that Russia was keen and ready to renew its relationship with Africa at a symbolic time, coming at a time when most of the African countries are commemorating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since they became independent.
16. Mr. Salvaton noted that the leadership of Russia is paying more attention to rejuvenating friendly relationships with African states. The envisioned partnership would build on the solid non-imperial role which Russia, and previously USSR, has played in the



decolonization process which led to the development of African independence.

17. It was further reiterated that there had been a significant downward trend and weakening of economic and political ties in the 1990s arising from the collapse of the Soviet Union which led to devastating social and economic crises.
18. He noted that the historic visit of the President of Russia Dmitri Medvedev in 2009 to some African countries was an important indication of Russia's intentions to initiate productive political dialogue which will revive and cement bilateral relations with African states on all spheres including education, culture, trade, humanitarian and technical assistance among others.
19. The envisioned trade and economic partnership would be based on equality, exchange of complementary strengths, mutual respect and mutual benefit and on the basis of genuine democratic values/relationship. These rejuvenated mutual relationships would be developed further into more concrete bilateral relations cutting across all spheres of socio-economic and political issues.
20. Strengthening integrated and inter-parliamentary relations will certainly be crucial in coordinating and enhancing the envisioned cooperation. The Pan-African Parliament though nascent has the structures and capacity to serve as a link to strengthen the Russia-Africa cooperation.
21. There was appreciation and emphasis that the representative nature of the delegates in attendance at the conference was encouraging and signaled success in the effort to revamp Russia's relations with African countries.

### 3.0 SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY AND ROUND TABLE SESSIONS

22. The **Plenary sessions** were marked by presentations by Members, businessmen and resource experts under three (3) sections namely:
  - 1) Section no.1 - Role of the Russian parliamentary diplomacy in solving problems of safety and democratic development in the African continent

- 2) Section no.2 - Economic cooperation of Russia and Africa: - What could and should be done by parliamentarians of our countries?
  - 3) Section no.3 - Humanitarian sphere as an object of the Russian-African inter-parliamentary cooperation.
23. There were also **thematic round-table sections** with sessions based on the following topics:-
1. Round table no.1: Role of the religions of the Russian Federation in International Cooperation with Africa.
    - (i) Sections Sessions:
      - a) On project and construction issues on the African continent (infrastructure sites, irrigation, industrial social sites)
      - b) On the Russian high technologies export to Africa
    2. Round-table no.2: current problems of financial provision of the Russian-African economic relations.
  - (ii) Section Sessions.
    - (c) On investigation, extraction and processing of minerals in Africa with participation of the Russian companies.
    - (d) On development of African goods and services export to Russia.

### 3.1 KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSIONS

24. Participants welcomed the notion and declaration of the Russian political leaders that Russia should "*return to Africa*" and that the revamped relations are to be based on mutual respect, mutual benefit, free from past polarized dogmatic ideologies.
25. Parliaments of our countries cannot continue to play second fiddle to executive arms. They must *play a more pro-active and definitive role in the development of relations* between our countries. Not only do they represent the people, they also adopt bills, enact legislations, ratify international treaties and perform active inter-parliamentary dialogue.
26. The Moscow forum and subsequent ones should aim at *promoting the building of bridges between Russia and Africa*, to provide a



- mechanism through which the Russian experience and achievements could be applied for the benefit of African development.
27. Africa is a valuable and key strategic partner for Russia. Africa expects this to be manifested in Russia's wider and deeper engagement and be felt in all spheres and aspects of its development.
  28. Today, Africa accounts for less than 2 per cent of Russia's total international trade, even though Russia could do more to positively impact on actual growth on the continent. Towards this end, various appropriate programmes need to be launched in the near future to give impetus and boost the trade volumes.
  29. The African continent is endowed with enormous natural and mineral resources. Africa is equally a key player in the global environmental protection process with good potential. Africa has a significant reservoir of human resources ready for active engagement in the continental and global economy, and indeed offers a vast potential market for both global traders and investors.
  30. From a more political perspective, more than fifty (50) African nations also constitute a significant and increasingly unified body whose importance and influence on the stage of global interaction is gradually strengthening. Given its resource-base and undeniable potential, Africa today, deserves recognition and acknowledgement as a partner in the decision-making process.
  31. Russia is of the understanding that its support of the development of capacity in respect of Africa's conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, at continental (the African Unions Peace and Security Council) and sub-regional levels, including its peace-keeping capacity, both in terms of funding and the provision of material will further strengthen the relations between Russia and African countries.
  32. Africa in turn needs to build and/or upgrade all categories of infrastructure including energy, roads, highways, airports, seaports, railways, waterways, telecommunication facilities.
  33. Russia's assistance in Africa's industrialization and the provision of physical economic infrastructure is an integral part of modern industrialization - which would then be able to access African goods and services more affordably and efficiently.
  34. Effective and sustainable development requires not only an "infrastructural hardware", but also the consistent provision of



appropriate education to bridge the education and know-how-gap and to enhance Africa's knowledge of and familiarity with technology.

35. Russia can be more effective in the promotion and endorsement of specialized research and higher education institutions in Africa to reverse the "brain-drain" from Africa, the development of new technology or the adaptation and innovation of existing technology to render it more relevant to Africa's unique development requirements, as well as in the development of a sustainable health-care delivery assessment across the Continent.
36. The promotion of the Russian language through cultural and social programmes, exchanges and assistance in learning is also a very crucial measure in order to forge new and stronger links between Russia and African countries.
37. Access to and availability of foreign finance is necessary today to explore domestically-generated resources as well as the private sector investment by domestic investors. The decision by Russia to write-off \$20 billion of African debts clearly indicates and constitutes the practical basis of boosting the development portfolio of the African continent.
38. Notwithstanding the importance of direct aid which is certainly important to Africa now, it is the trade and investment which, increasingly, are critical to generating jobs and creating opportunities for people for their future development.
39. Russia could do more to open its own markets-including agricultural products from African countries. The tourism sector and the promotion of tourism to Africa need specific support-programmes and activities on a sub-regional basis across in order to enhance our relations, air connections between Russia and Africa should be re-established and further developed.
40. Programmes and activities and/or strengthen research and development in renewable energy; forestry and agriculture are crucial for Africa today.
41. Participants of the conference emphasized the importance of bilateral contracts, including local and regional level, but also multilateral international forums and meeting of parliamentarians.
42. Taking into account the increasing importance of Pan-African parliament, special attention should be paid to direct contacts between the state Dumas and the Federation council of the Russian Federation and the Pan-African Parliament.



#### 4.0 SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE STATE DUMA.

43. The Kenyan delegation accompanied by the Kenyan Ambassador in Russia, H.E Prof. S.M.Machage, held very constructive discussions with the Office of the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Federation, Hon. **Svetlana U. Orlova** represented by **Hon. Larisa Parlova** who recalled fond memories of their past visit to Kenya in 2007. Making reference to past relations with the Kenya Parliament, she said it was important to have more structured, frequent and closer engagements so as to strengthen future inter-parliamentary relations and make them truly meaningful.
44. Mrs. L. Parlova gave a brief account and update of issues and areas of interest that the State Duma through the Council of the Federation was involved in and which Kenya could explore in its future engagement with Russia. The areas of scientific research and technology, capacity building in ecology and environmental management, in particular, modernization and innovation of pure water harvesting projects sponsored by the Russian water society were seen as a key and potential new frontier of the envisioned cooperation.
45. Mrs. Parlova informed the delegation that Hon. Svetlana Orlova was co-chair of the organizing committee of the forthcoming International Water Conference with exhibitions on the latest innovations on water harvesting technologies scheduled to take place on 23-24<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 in Moscow.
46. In the spirit of the renewed Russia-Africa (Kenya relationship), she extended an invitation to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya and the core delegation to attend and participate in the Forum which will be graced by Russia's Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Putin. Many government officials and Members of Parliament from African countries, international organizations and experts are expected to participate.
47. Mrs. Parlova informed the delegation that the Russian Parliament was willing and shall cooperate and engage with the Kenyan Parliament in establishing a strong and active parliamentary friendship group to spearhead the exchange of ideas and address issues of mutual interest between the two Parliaments and countries.



48. The Leader of the Kenyan delegation, Hon. Adan Keynan thanked the Office of the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Federation, Mrs. Svetlana U. Orlova and Larisa Parlova for the warm welcome and sparing time to hold these useful discussions.
49. Hon. Keynan lauded Russia for playing a pivotal non-imperial role in Africa by significantly contributing to many African countries attaining their independence from their former colonial masters, noting that the renewed Russian-African initiative coincides in a special way with the 50 years anniversary of many African countries.
50. Hon. Keynan observed that Kenya had a lot to offer and was keen to diversify and strengthen relations with non-traditional trade partners and emphasized that economic relations form the core pillar of current diplomacy. He noted that Kenya stands to gain a lot from Russia's wealth of technical expertise being more developed and industrialized.
51. Hon. Keynan cautioned that Russia needed to move fast into Kenya's fast developing domestic market, given that the Chinese, Turks and Greeks are moving in very fast and in a big way.
52. Hon. Keynan assured the Russian side that the Kenyan Constitution guarantees protection of all foreign investments; and Kenya is a signatory to international treaties that guarantee investors against loss of investment due to political problems on host countries; and settling disputes between foreign investors and host countries.
53. Kenya, he noted has one of the strongest economy in the East and central Africa region, with modern and vibrant social and economic infrastructure and is the regional communication and humanitarian hub making it very strategic for growth of trade partnership and development.
54. Hon. Keynan observed that Kenya's agricultural products, in particular, fresh flowers, tea and horticultural produce are of high quality and in abundance and offered great potential in the effort to strengthen future trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Kenya.
55. Kenya just like Russia plays a critical role in ensuring stability in the Eastern region of Africa especially in Southern Sudan, Burundi and Somalia. However, political instability in the neighbouring countries continues to pose a lot of challenges and burden on Kenya's security operations and budget. Of greater concern was



the spiral in piracy in the horn of Africa which has escalated the cost of doing business in Kenya, arising from Somalia's continued political instability. He appreciated the role that Russia has played in the international anti-piracy efforts, and called on Russia to play an even greater role to stem this crisis.

56. Hon. Keynan touched on the issue of the tourism sector promotion and development and said that both Russia and Kenya attach great significance to the sector's development. He noted that the Kenya government was making impressive progress in developing diversified facilities and infrastructure and said that it was necessary that more targeted marketing and preference arrangements be pursued. Closely related to this was the need to promote the transfer of technology in the area of water supply and water purification including in key water sources like rivers and lakes, a concern that was articulated by Hon. Ngata Kariuki.
57. Hon. Keynan lauded the Russian Federation for their long-standing tradition of offering partial scholarships to undergraduate Kenyan students to study in various fields in the Russian Federation but requested that Parliament intervenes to have them grant full scholarships given that the students come from poor backgrounds and the cost of living in Russia is quite high.
58. Hon. Keynan implored upon the Russia side to consider co-organizing and participating in trade exhibitions on annual basis, to give an opportunity for Russian and Kenyan businessmen to showcase their products, expertise and explore investment opportunities. There was consensus that having direct air flights from Moscow to major African cities including Nairobi, creating a core and active parliamentary friendship group will go a long way in strengthening and sustaining the revamped bilateral relations as a matter of urgency and top priority.
59. The Russia side informed the delegation that the relevant committee of the State Duma had already intervened in regard to the issue of scholarships and undertook to follow it up. Political will, commitment among and of the leadership of both Parliaments and State leaders were cited as critical and important in ensuring the success of the envisioned relationship.



## 5.0 SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH STUDENT LEADERS ON CHALLENGES FACING STUDENTS IN RUSSIA

60. The delegation was informed by the student leaders representing Kenya students drawn from various universities in the Russian Federation that many students face serious financial problems. Many students on partial scholarships do not get bursaries. Needy private students also request that they be considered for bursary allocation considering that Moscow is one of the world's most expensive cities. Financial distress is a major cause of drop-out among Kenyan students in studying in Russia.
61. The student leadership requested through the delegation that the terms of studying in Russia be re-negotiated so that students are allowed to undertake practical attachments in Russian firms and institutions. To date foreign students are not allowed to do internship in Russian firms.
62. The delegation heard that the Kenyan Embassy in Moscow does not have an Education Attaché from the Ministry of education to deal more effectively with students' issues and act as a direct link with the Ministry of education back at home.
63. The delegation was informed that the time taken to process students' passports is rather long and this more often interferes with the Russian registration requirements forcing students to exit the country then sneak back in. This situation becomes costly and quite inconveniencing.
64. Every year, the Russian Government gives 30 scholarships to Kenyan students, some of which remain unoccupied. The student leaders requested through the delegation, that such unfilled spots be made transferable to needy private students.
65. The students' leaders presented the case of offering HELB study loans to Kenyan students in Russia emphasizing that many students drop out because of inadequate financial support.
66. The delegation was informed that there is a company called KENRUSS that sends private students to Russia. The company either gives false information to students regarding what they expect to do in Russia or it does not fully inform them of the actual challenges. Leaving out information such as amount of fees to be paid, the fact that one cannot work in Russia and the Racism level in Russia. As a result there have been cases of students having to return to Kenya in less than six (6) months due to lack of school



fees since they go to Russia with hopes of getting employed and using such income to pay or supplement tuition.

## **6.0 SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS**

67. The delegation was informed that government agencies dealing with the provision of information and data that helps in the promotion of Trade in Kenya take inordinately long to respond to inquiries from the commercial attaché. This impedes faster communication and attraction of potential investors, market outlets, expanding investment opportunities and finalization of contracts.
68. The delegation heard the Kenyan Mission in Moscow faced constraints in expenditure, some of which are beyond their control. In particular, the cost of telephone calls and rents paid by the embassy account for approximately three quarters of their total budget. Of late, the introduction of IFMIS has complicated the issues further for foreign missions by occasioning delays in disbursement of funds.

## **7.0 POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 IN REGARD TO PARLIAMENT'S ROLE**

1. The leadership of the Parliaments of Kenya and the State Duma Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation should nominate Members and staff to form a permanent joint friendship group that will spearhead the cooperation between the two Parliaments.
2. In the medium term, Parliament to establish a core team of Members and staff and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials to identify, study, collate and crystallize appropriate economic policies that can inform or be considered in drafting/reviewing the country's foreign policy.
3. Kenya should play a more pivotal role and be a more pro-active Member of the Pan African Parliament and hence spearhead/promote Russia-Africa relations.
4. The leadership of the Kenya Parliament to initiate, organize and undertake in the near future, a high-level official visit to sign a new concretized and more comprehensive trade, economic and political protocols between Kenya and Russia.

5. The Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Public Works and Housing should take up the issue of the establishment of direct air flights and linkages between Nairobi and Moscow. A joint operational memorandum between Aeroflot and Kenya Airways is recommended. This will bolster and boost trade especially in fresh and perishable agricultural products, tourism and culture exchanges.

## 7.2 IN REGARD TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

6. Establish in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade and the Russian Embassy in Nairobi a Joint Trade Council/team to expedite the organization of trade exhibitions, fairs and expos to showcase products from the two countries on a regular basis. This will open avenues for potential investors and attract investments.
7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs to initiate discussions with their Russian counterparts on how Kenyan students can access practical internships in Russian firms and institutions.
8. Kenya's embassy in Moscow should be given the requisite authority and facilitation to renew students' passports to forestall/prevent the current hardships students face.

## 7.3 AS FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

9. In conjunction with investigative government agencies, initiate the investigation of KENRUSS, the firm that sends private students to Russian universities to avoid agents misleading Kenyan students and reduce cases of premature drop-outs in foreign countries and/or fraudulent dealings.
10. Kenyan students abroad to be considered for HELB loans on a need-to-need basis.
11. Consider the introduction and promotion of the Russian language as an optional examinable subject in Kenya in tertiary institutions. This will considerably ease access to Russian institutions and reduce the length of study and training time in Russia.

-----END-----