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REPUBLIC OF KENYA





THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION – 2024

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO NEW KPCU PLC IN NAIROBI, SAGANA AND MERU WAREHOUSES

> TIL NAT DATE: 23 JUL LULY TUESDAY DATE: 23 JUL LULY TUESDAY HUNC: MAQIAMME ILGITARH, NP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVED 2 2 JUL 2024 SPEAKER'S OFFICE

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REPORT ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO NEW KPCU BY THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report contains details of the inspection visit to New KPCU facilities, conducted by the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. The Committee conducted the inspection visit in accordance with its mandate as provided for under Standing Orders 216 (5), which provides that the Committee should amongst others, investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and Departments.

New KPCU is one of the Government agencies under the State Department for Cooperatives, which the Committee is mandated to oversee. The agency is a key player in the coffee value chain. The agency's mandate is to mill and market coffee, which is one of Kenya's key export commodities. It also offers warehousing services and in addition, in the FY 2019/20 it was mandated to administer the Coffee Cherry Revolving Fund. The fund was allocated Kshs. 2.7 billion to offer loans to coffee farmers with coffee cherry as collateral. Recently, the Government commenced the coffee reforms which among others, seek to minimize the influence of the multinational companies involved in buying coffee from farmers and selling in international markets, thus acting as middle men. The reforms seek to create competition, consequently leading to New KPCU's involvement in buying coffee from farmers and selling the coffee directly. This is with an aim of increasing the earnings of coffee farmers.

In this regard, the Committee conducted an inspection tour to various New KPCU facilities, which include its Headquarters in Nairobi, Dandora, Sagana and Meru. This report therefore contains the observations and findings of the Committee arising from the said inspection.

The Committee is thankful to the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the Clerk and the Secretariat for their support to the Committee as it discharges its oversight mandate. On behalf of the Members of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and pursuant to Standing Orders 199, it is my pleasant duty to submit to this House, the Committee's report on its inspection visit to New KPCU PLC.

CHAPTER ONE

PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is one of the Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under Standing Order 216, whose mandate pursuant to the Standing Order 216 (5) is as follows;

- i. To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;
- *ii.* To study the programme and policy objectives of ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- *iii. on a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;*
- iv. To study and review all legislation referred to it;
- v. To study, assess and analyse the relative success of the ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- vi. To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
- vii. To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments);
- viii. To examine treaties, agreements and conventions;
- *ix.* To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;
- *x.* To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and
- xi. To examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.

In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the Committee is mandated to consider: Trade, including securities exchange, consumer protection, pricing policies, commerce, industrialization including special economic zones, enterprise promotion and development, Micro, small & and; medium enterprise (MSMEs), and small and medium enterprise (SMEs), intellectual property, industry standards, anti-counterfeit and cooperative development.

In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

1.2 Committee Membership

The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives was constituted by the House on Thursday, 27th October, 2022, and comprises the following Members;

Chairperson Hon. James Mwangi Gakuya, MP Embakasi North Constituency <u>UDA Party</u>

Vice-Chairperson Hon Kitany Jebet Marianne, MP Aldai Constituency <u>UDA Party</u>

<u>Members</u> Hon. Dr. Oundo Wilberforce Ojiambo, MP Funyula Constutiency <u>ODM Party</u>

Hon. Adagala Beatrice Kahai, MP Vihiga Constituency ANC Party

Hon. Githinji Robert Gichimu, MP Gichugu Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Kamene Joyce, MP Machakos Constituency WDM Party

Hon. Mwalyo Joshua Mbithi, MP Masinga Constituency Independent Member

Hon. Oluoch Anthony, MP Mathare Constituency ODM Party

Hon. Guyo Adhe Wario, MP North Horr Constituency <u>KANU Party</u>

Hon. Korir Adams Kipsanai, MP Keiyo North Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Maina Mwago Amos, MP Starehe JP Party

Hon. Sakimba Parashina Samwel, MP Kajiado South Constituency ODM Party

Hon. Wanaina Antony Njoroge, MP Kieni Constituency <u>UDA Party</u>

Hon. Waithaka John Machua

Kiambu Constituency

UDA Party

1.3Committee Secretariat

1. The Committee is facilitated by the following members of staff;

Ms. Rose Mudibo, OGW Senior Clerk Assistant /Head of Secretariat

Mr. Ellam Omuhinda Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Doreen Karani

Senior Legal Counsel

Mr. Arkan Ali Mumin

Research Officer III

Mr, Daniel Psirmoi Media Relations Officer

Ms. Peris Kaburi Senior Sergeant-At-Arms Ms. Everlyne Orina Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Loice Olesia Fiscal Analyst III

9.0

Ms. Priscilla Saidi

Research Officer III

Mr. Cosmas Akhonya Audio Recording Officer

Ms. Pauline Sifuma Hansard Reporter

1.4 Overview of the inspection visit

In exercising its oversight mandate, the Committee conducted an inspection visit to the New KPCU Headquarters, Dandora, Sagana and Meru branches. The Committee held a briefing meeting at the New KPCU Headquarters, and later proceeded to apprise itself with the Nairobi Coffee Exchange located in the New KPCU Headquarters building, in which licensed brokers and buyers engage in the trade of coffee. The Committee then proceeded to inspect the Dandora Milling Plant and Warehouses, and similarly the Sagana Branch and finally the Meru Branch. Additionally, the agency took the Committee through the coffee milling, cupping and grading processes.

1.5 Acknowledgement

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for their support in the execution of its mandate. The Committee also thanks the State Department for Cooperatives under which New KPCU is domiciled, for its cooperation as the Committee discharges its budget implementation oversight role.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honorable Members of the Committee for their active participation and commitment in the preparation of this report. It is therefore, my pleasant duty and privilege, to present this report.

HON. JAMES GAKUYA, MP CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Introduction

- The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives undertakes its role of oversight in accordance with Article 95 of the Constitution, and consequently Standing Orders 216(5).
- 2. In this regard, the Committee conducted an inspection visit to New KPCU facilities to ascertain the progress the agency has made so far, the opportunities for growth and the challenges the agency is facing in executing its mandate of milling and marketing coffee.
- 3. The ongoing coffee reforms have presented an opportunity for New KPCU to be more centrally placed in the coffee industry. Notably, the reforms have prompted the agency to be directly involved in sourcing for buyers of coffee exports in the international markets.
- 4. New KPCU has a cumulative milling capacity of 18.5 tons per hour in all its branches, with milling charges of 40 USD per ton. The Committee conducted its inspection tour in Dandora, Sagana and Meru branches, and ascertained that the agency has milling plants in place. The agency also offers color sorting, handling and grading of coffee before exportation. Notably, the grading is done in accordance with both local and international standards.
- 5. The current coffee production capacity of the agency is 3,018 tones and it targets to increase its coffee production capacity to 20,000 tons by FY 2026/27.
- New KPCU also offers warehousing facilities with a cumulative total warehouse capacity of 946,045 square feet across its various warehouses. The Committee inspected its thirteen (13) warehouses in Dandora, five (5) warehouses in Sagana and six (6) warehouses in Meru.
- The Committee noted that out of the inspected warehouses only three (3) warehouses are modernized in Dandora, two (2) in Sagana, and it was noted that all the warehouses in Meru have been modernized.
- 8. The agency is also mandated to administer the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund which was allocated Kshs. 2.7 billion in FY 2019/20. The fund issues loans to coffee

farmers with coffee cherry as collateral for the loans. The fund has cumulatively issued Kshs. 3.7 billion as of 8th March, 2024.

9. In the 1st Supplementary Estimates for FY 2023/24, the fund was enhanced by Kshs. 4 billion to upscale the payment to farmers from the current Kshs. 40, that the farmers were receiving to the proposed Kshs. 80. The Kshs. 4 billion allocation, is however yet to be fully disbursed to the agency from the exchequer.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Inspection Visit to New KPCU Headquarters

The Committee was briefed by the Managing Director New KPCU, before the commencement of the inspection tour as follows;

- 10. That the mandate of New KPCU includes marketing and milling coffee, which is one of Kenya's key export commodities. The agency also offers warehousing services to coffee farmers and it administers the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund.
- 11. With regards to its role of administering the Coffee Cherry Fund, the fund received an allocation of Kshs. 2.7 billion, but it had disbursed up to Kshs. 3.7 billion as at 8th March, 2024, since it is a revolving fund. It was also noted that the enhancement of Kshs. 4 billion for the fund to upscale the payment to coffee farmers is yet to be fully disbursed. Delays in exchequer releases pose a challenge to the agency, since coffee farmers are anticipating an increase in payment from Kshs. 40 per kg of cherry to Kshs. 80 per kg.
- 12. The Government agency stated that, although they have ample warehousing capacity of 946,045 square feet, their primary challenge lies in the fact that most farmers still opt for private warehouses instead. Notably, nineteen (19) warehouses require modernization as they do not meet international standards.
- 13. The agency further submitted that the European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) is a new development in the industry in which it operates. The regulations came into force in June 2023, to help combat deforestation and several adverse effects of climate change.
- 14. The EUDR seeks to address deforestation and forest degradation caused by agricultural expansion to produce certain commodities, such that products that contribute to global deforestation and forest degradation are unavailable on the EU market. It was submitted that farmers ought to comply with these regulations to be able to access the EU market.
- 15. It was further submitted that, as part of its CSR efforts, the agency donates seedlings to farmers, provides farmers with agronomy support in crop husbandry, and supports the youth and students who wish to engage in coffee farming.

- 16. The agency submitted that it collaborates with unions to enter into agreements to mill and market coffee for them, for instance they have collaborated with Kiambu Union to mill the union's coffee.
- 17. That the role of the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) which is a transparent and efficient platform for trading coffee, involves two players; brokers and buyers. The brokers are licensed by CMA, while the buyers are licensed by AFA. The NCE primarily operates through an auction system which takes place every Tuesday.
- 18. Before the auction, the coffee beans are evaluated for quality and graded. Once the auction is done, payments are afterwards made through a Direct Settlement System.
- 19. That the agency is in the process of engaging the State Department for Public Works to estimate the cost of renovating the remaining buildings at the Headquarters.

The Committee then conducted an inspection tour within New KPCU headquarters. The complex consists of five (5) buildings, out of which only one (1) building has been renovated. Wakulima House has been renovated and is currently at 95% completion. Ghala 1, R&K, old mills and the parking house are yet to be renovated.

3.2 Inspection Visit to New KPCU Dandora

The Committee toured New KPCU Dandora situated in Nairobi County, to inspect its facilities on 8th March 2024.

- 20. It was noted that there are thirteen (13) warehouses, three (3) of which have been modernized, while ten (10) are pending modernization. The warehouses have a storage capacity of 686,000 square feet, which is an increase from 258,062 square feet before the modernization of the three (3) warehouses.
- The branch has a mill which serves farmers from Kiambu and lower eastern including Tala, Makueni and Machakos, Kitale, Bungoma, Kisii, Nyanza and Rift Valley.
- 22. The current coffee production capacity is 1,178 tonnes and it is projected to increase to 7,683 tonnes by FY 2026/27. To improve the production capacity the agency submitted

that there is a need to increase the processing capacity of the milling plants from the current 4 tonnes per hour to 8 tonnes per hour.

3.3 Inspection Visit to New KPCU Sagana

The Committee toured New KPCU Sagana situated in Kirinyaga County, to inspect its facilities on 8th March 2024.

- 23. The Committee inspected five (5) warehouses in Sagana, two (2) of which have been modernized and three (3) are pending modernization. The warehouses have a storage capacity of 125,014 square feet, which is an increase from 76,006 square feet before modernization of the two (2) warehouses.
- 24. The current production capacity for the mill is 737 tonnes and it is projected to increase to 6,337 tons by FY 2026/27. This is intended to be achieved by increasing the processing capacity of the milling plants from 6 tonnes per hour to 8 tonnes per hour.

3.4 Inspection Visit to New KPCU Meru

The Committee toured New KPCU Meru situated in Meru County, to inspect its facilities on 9th March 2024.

- 25. There are six (6) warehouses in Meru, which have been modernized. The storage capacity of the warehouses is 70,000 square feet.
- 26. The current production capacity in the branch is 1,103 tonnes and it is projected to increase to 7,683 tons by FY 2026/27. It is anticipated that to achieve this, the capacity of the milling plants has to be increased from the current 2.5 tonnes per hour to 6 tonnes per hour.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

- 27. The ongoing coffee reforms have increased the scope of operations of New KPCU, such that it has a critical role to play in the coffee industry. New KPCU is currently involved in buying coffee from farmers, which was initially done by only four multinational companies. This is anticipated to create competition and prevent the exploitation of coffee prices offered to the farmers in exchange for their coffee.
- 28. The coffee reforms have also necessitated the need for modern laboratory equipment for the agency to be able to compete with the multinational companies and to directly access the international markets. The Committee noted that there is need for modern cupping facilities for each of the mills in the New KPCU branches.
- 29. New KPCU targets to increase its current production capacity from 3,018 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes in 2027. The Committee observed that the agency requires additional funding for modernization totaling Kshs. 2.7 billion. It was noted that, if the entity is not fully funded to modernize its facilities, with the ongoing coffee reforms, it is highly unlikely that this target will be met.
- 30. The modernization process involves removing the asbestos roofing which is hazardous, painting, floor works and construction of boundary walls to improve the security in New KPCU branches. Following the inspection tour, the Committee noted that, there is a pressing need to modernize the nineteen (19) warehouses yet to modernize, especially, the removal of asbestos, which is associated with health risks exposures.
- 31. The Committee observed that, due to the proximity challenges of the existing New KPCU milling plants, coffee farmers who do not have a mill close by, have to travel for longer distances to deliver their coffee for milling. This translates to high transportation costs for the coffee farmers.
- 32. It was noted that, the requirement to cater for the upscaling of the payment to coffee farmers is up to Kshs. 26 billion against the allocation of Kshs. 4 billion in FY 2023/24. The agency

however, submitted that for the fund to operate optimally, it requires up to Kshs. 15 billion in the coming financial year.

33. It was also noted that, the allocation of Kshs. 4 billion for the coffee cherry fund to upscale the payment to coffee farmers, is yet to be fully disbursed. Delays in exchequer releases pose a challenge to the agency, since coffee farmers are anticipating an increase in payment from Kshs. 40 per kg of cherry to Kshs. 80 per kg. The Committee observed that only Kshs. 500 million has been disbursed.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 34. The Committee recommends that, once New KPCU receives budgetary allocation for the modernization of its warehouses, the agency should review the mode of implementation of the modernization process, such that it should prioritize the completion of one warehouse at a time. This approach is proposed in view of the fact that, the agency attempted to modernize multiple warehouses simultaneously, resulting in slow progress towards completion. By prioritizing one warehouse at a time, the agency can streamline the modernization process and achieve more efficient results.
- 35. The Committee recommends that an allocation of Kshs. 15 billion in FY 2024/25 be considered by the National Assembly, for the optimal operation of the Coffee Cherry Fund. This will adequately cater for the upscaling of payment to coffee farmers. This is in view of the fact that the current allocation of Kshs. 4 billion in FY 2023/24 is not sufficient.

HON. JAMES GAKUYA, MP

CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND

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ANNEX 1: INSPECTION TOUR AT NEW KPCU SAGANA

Members of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives inspecting the milling plant at New KPCU Sagana.



Inspection by the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, of 50 kg bags containing clean coffee stored in the warehouses.



Inspection by the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, of the asbestos roofing in the warehouses which is hazardous and harmful to human health.

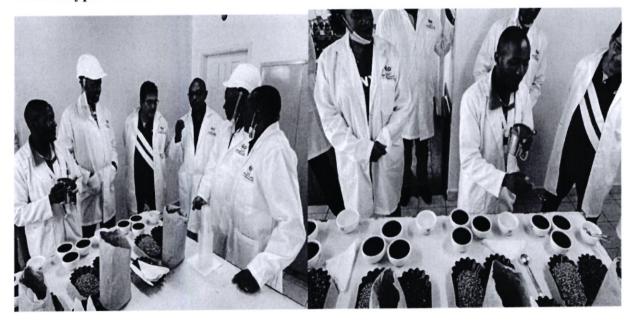


ANNEX 2: INSPECTION TOUR AT NEW KPCU MERU

A member of the New KPCU staff, taking The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives through the various grades of coffee at the New KPCU Meru Branch. The Committee was accompanied by the area Member of Parliament for North Imenti, Hon. Dawood Abdul Rahim.



Members of the New KPCU staff taking the Committee members through the cupping process, which involves a systematic method for evaluating the quality and characteristic of various types coffee.



The Committee members touring a small coffee shrub within the New KPCU Meru Branch.



The Committee inspected the already modernized New KPCU warehouses in Meru, containing bags of coffee.



REPORT ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO NEW KPCU BY THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

SESSION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 90thSITTING OF THE THIRD DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES, HELD AT THE BUNGE TOWER, 2ND FLOOR, COMMITTEE ROOM 12 ON TUESDAY, 4TH JUNE 2024, AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

- 1. Hon. Gakuya James Mwangi, MP
- 2. Hon. Kitany Marianne Jebet, MP
- 3. Hon. (Dr.)Oundo Wilberforce Ojiambo, MP
- 4. Hon. Korir Adams Kipsanai, MP
- 5. Hon. Waithaka John Machua, MP
- 6. Hon. (Dr.)Adagala Beatrice Kahai, MP
- 7. Hon. Mwalyo Joshua MbithiMutua, MP
- 8. Hon. Wainaina Antony Njoroge, MP

APOLOGIES

- 1. Hon. Oluoch Anthony Tom, MP
- 2. Hon. Kamene Joyce, MP
- 3. Hon. MainaMwago Amos, MP
- 4. Hon, SakimbaParashina Samuel, MP
- 5. Hon. GuyoAdheWario, MP
- 6. Hon. GithinjiGichimu, MP

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Ms. Rose Mudibo, OGW
- 2. Ms. Priscilla Saidi
- 3. Mr. Arkan Ali Mumin
- 4. Ms. Pauline Sifuma
- 5. Ms. Peris Kaburi
- 6. Mr. Kevin Lengasi

AGENDA

- 1. Preliminaries
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes
- 3. Adoption of reports
 - (i) Report on the inspection the New KPCU Warehouses (ii) The Budget Implementation Report
- 4. Any Other Business
- 5. Adjournment

MIN.NO.NA/TRADE/2024/436:

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m., followed by a word of prayer and a round of introductions.

PRELIMINARIES

MIN.NO.NA/TRADE/2024/437:

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The agenda was postponed to another Sitting of the Committee.

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Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

- Senior Clerk Assistant
- Research Officer III
- Research Officer III
- Hansard Recorder
- SAA

- - - Audio Officer

MIN.NO.NA/TRADE/2024/438:

ADOPTION OF REPORTS

The Chairperson briefed the Committee that the two reports (**Report on the Visit to the New KPCU Warehouses and the Report on the Budget Implementation 2022/23**) had been reviewed earlier and that the amendments made had been captured by the secretariat. The Secretariattook the Members through the amendments captured. Upon further deliberations

the

Committee adopted the two reports for tabling in the House.

MIN.NO.NA/TRADE /2024/439: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The brief on the meeting with the Multi-Nationals was circulated and Members were given a few minutes to read through it before the next meeting.

MIN.NO.NA/TRADE/2024/440:

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXTMEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11.00 a.m., and the next meeting is to be held on the same day at noon.

Sign.... Date

HON. GAKUYA JAMES MWANGI, MP CHAIRPERSON

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES



REPUBLIC OF KENYA THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - THIRD SESSION – 2024 DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

ADOPTION SCHEDULE

Report on the Consideration and Adoption of Committee Report on;

THE	INSPECTION VISIT TO KPCY M	VALE HOUSES SIGNATURE
No.	MEMBER NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Gakuya James Mwangi, MP – <i>Chairperson</i>	ton
2.	Hon. Kitany Marianne Jebet, MP – <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	VICE
3.	Hon.Dr. Oundo Wilberforce Ojiambo, MP	ENGES
4.	Hon.Adagala Beatrice Kahai, MP 💦	Bell
5.	Hon. Githinji Robert Gichimu, MP	
6.	Hon. Kamene Joyce, MP	
7.	Hon.Mwalyo Joshua Mbithi Mutua, MP	Josephy.
8.	Hon.Oluoch Anthony Tom, MP	
9.	Hon.Guyo Adhe Wario, MP	
10.	Hon. Korir Adams Kipsanai, MP	Alun
11.	Hon.Maina Mwago Amos, MP	
12.	Hon.Sakimba Parashina Samuel, MP	
13.	Hon. Wainaina Antony Njoroge, MP	· .
14.	Hon. Waithaka John Machua, MP	Machus

Attendance Schedule: DC- Trade, Industry and Cooperatives