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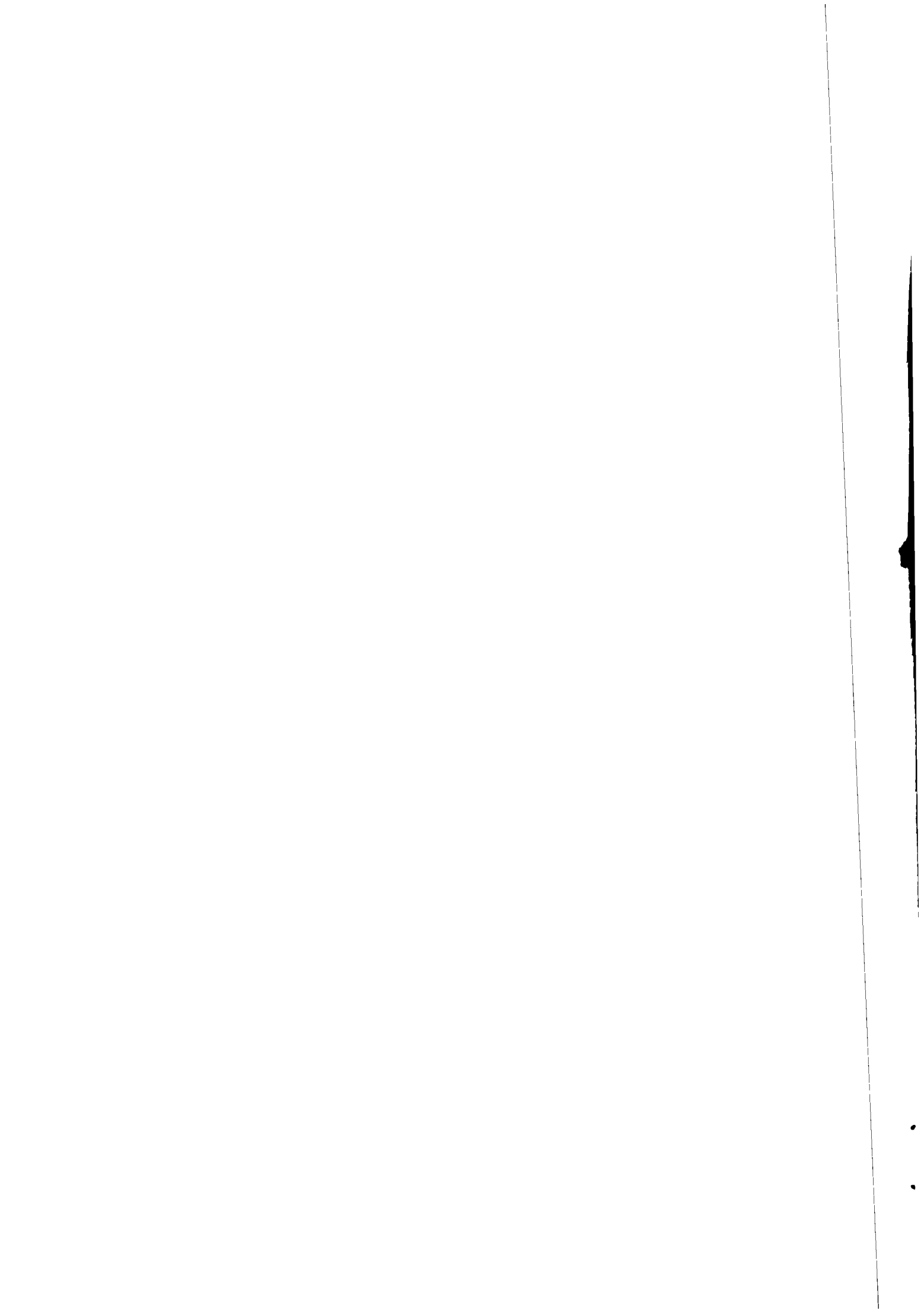
# **KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**REPORT  
ON  
OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES,  
CHAIRMEN'S  
PANEL AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS  
OF PARLIAMENT FROM VARIOUS  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES TO THE  
PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE,  
CANADA**

**22ND MAY TO 6TH JUNE, 1999**

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
NAIROBI**

**JULY, 1999**





21 July 1999

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On 10th May, 1999, you appointed me to lead a Parliamentary delegation to Canada under the Kenya - Canada Legislative Cooperation Programme with the sponsorship of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a programme which was conducted by the Parliamentary Centre, Canada.

On behalf of the delegation, I wish to extend our appreciation and gratitude to CIDA for sponsoring the study tour and also assure them that the information gained would be fully utilized to bring about the desired changes in our Parliamentary Committee operations.


We are also greatly indebted to the Parliamentary Centre for the hospitality accorded to the delegation and the personal attention extended to all its Members despite its large size. Moreover, the Programme was designed in such a way that it gave us the opportunity to evaluate our own system, take stock of areas to improve upon, encourage and nurture the strengths in the system as well as identify those practices in our system that could benefit from a review.

I also wish to record our gratitude to you Sir, for initiating the programme which enabled the group to benefit from the rich experiences of the Canadian parliamentary system. This was a clear indication of your desire to strengthen our operations and therefore, wish to assure you that the information gained would be fully utilized by the Members of the delegation. Towards this end, the report is being availed to all Members of Parliament so that they may use the information therein to generate healthy discussions with a view to enhancing a vibrant parliamentary system.

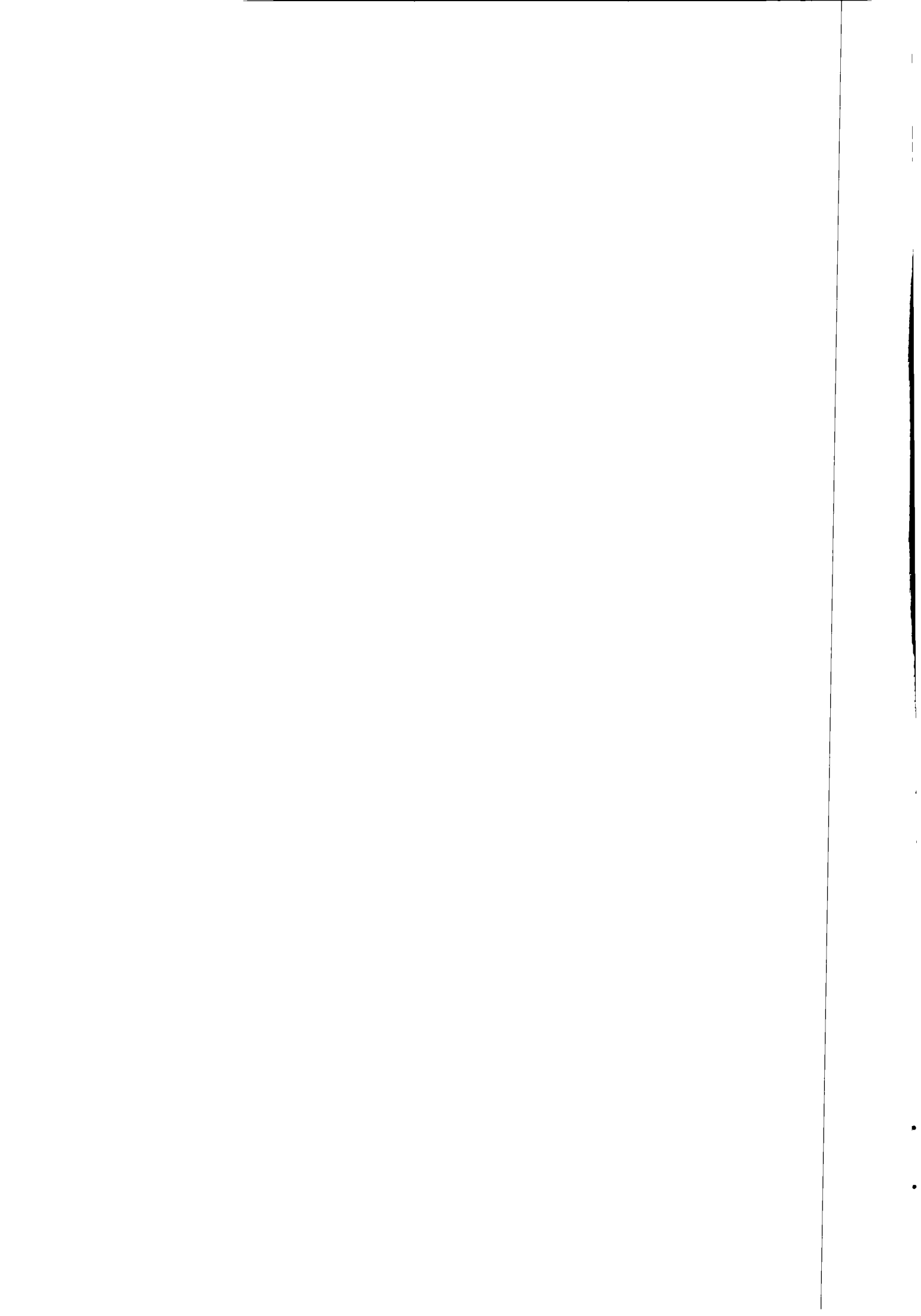
The report will also be availed to CIDA and the Parliamentary Centre so that they may appreciate the fruitful outcome of the great effort they put towards the success of the programme, while hoping that the contents would reveal how beneficial to our institution the tour was. We also hope that they will join hands with our institution in organizing similar programmes both here and in Canada, where Members from both Parliaments would have a chance to exchange more ideas and thereby be directly involved in building healthy democratic institutions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Members of the delegation for the keen interest they showed and various questions they posed, which helped us to gather a lot of information which is contained in this report.

It is therefore with gratitude Sir, that I submit the report to you, on behalf of the delegation involving seventeen Members of Parliament and three Senior Members of Staff which took place between May 22nd to June 6th, 1999.

SIGNED .....  .....  
**JOAB H. OMINO, M.P,**  
**DEPUTY SPEAKER**  
**KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

DATE ..... *23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1999* .....



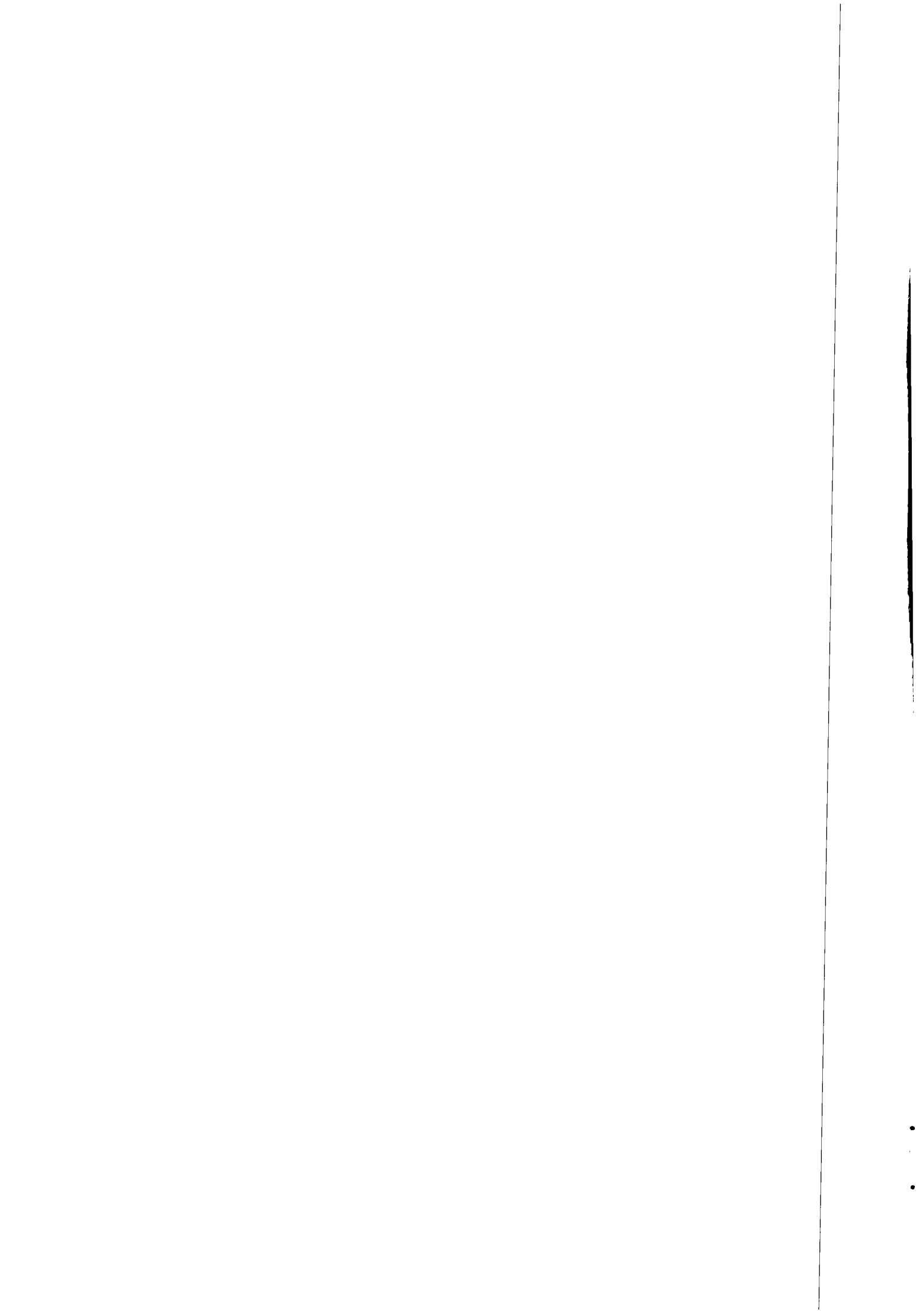
## **1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This report emanates from the Study Tour by Chairmen of Departmental Committees, the Members of the Chairmen's Panel and three other members of Parliament from various Departmental Committees to the Parliamentary Centre, Canada. The tour arose out of the request by the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Canadian High Commissioner, for sponsorship of the programme. The programme entailed the visit to the Parliament of Canada, to observe the workings and operations of the Committee system in Canada with a view to strengthening the Kenyan Committee system as well as bolstering research capacity for Members of Parliament and the staff.

During the two-week tour the delegation had the opportunity to hold frank discussions with their counterparts in the House of Commons and the Senate; including Committee Chairmen; Senior Members of the Opposition parties and Senior Members of Staff from the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament. The delegation also had a chance to attend various Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.

This report therefore depicts the information gathered as a result of the discussion as well as the observations made during the tour.

The report gives an introduction of the Canadian parliamentary system and highlights significant areas such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The major features of the Committee system have also been depicted while areas where differences exist have also been enumerated. The report further highlights the administrative structure of the Parliament of Canada through the Board of Internal Economy as well as the operations of such Committees as the Liaison Committee, the standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Procedure and House affairs and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts with the hope that their operations would shed light on the workings of the Canadian





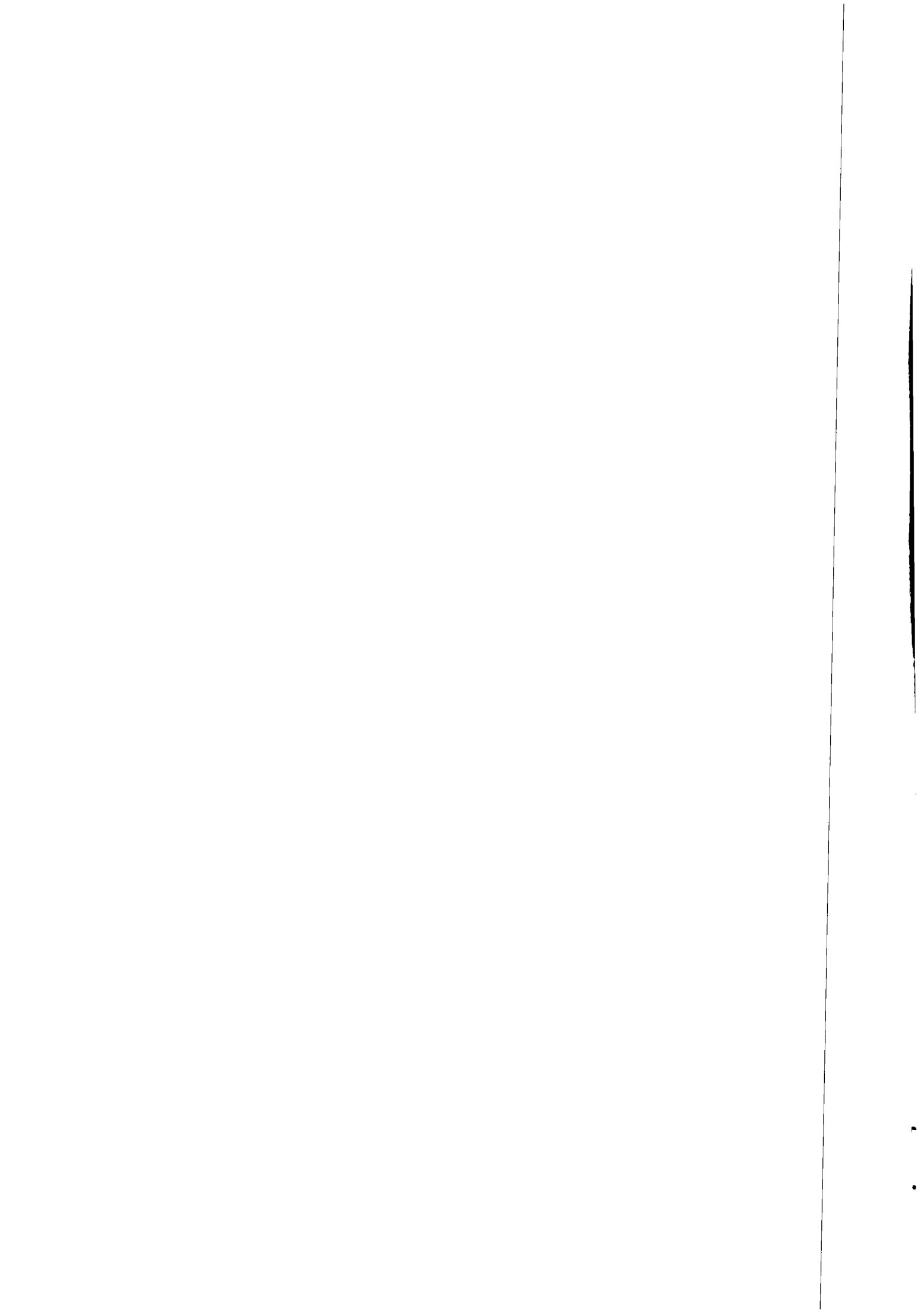
Committee system as a whole.

We are confident that the findings will prove invaluable to the other Members of Parliament and that they will be useful to the development and strengthening of the parliamentary system in Kenya.

In the report are several recommendations arising out of the lessons learnt which the delegation finds useful to other Members and urges them to use them as a spring-board through which discussions on the issues plaguing our committee system could be initiated and deliberated with a view to building and sustaining a healthy democratic Parliament.

The delegation observed that the bulk of parliamentary work is undertaken through Committees and that, this enables the Government to introduce several measures at a time. The delegation further observed that the Canadian Committee system has evolved over several decades to a level whereby the ordinary parliamentarian is now able to be involved in decision-making process. Committees are currently free to initiate their own inquiries without leave from the House thereby planning their own work and setting own agendas. Secondly, the transfer of legislation from Standing Committees to Legislative Committees has reduced partisanship and lessened the work-load of Standing Committees such that they are able to deal exhaustively with policy issues in their areas of operation. Thirdly, the committees have been empowered to hire research staff without having to secure leave from the House. Despite the above, the committees operate under a system of Government whereby the governing party wields a lot of power especially in the determination of the chairs and daily running of Business in the House as a whole.

A glimpse of the Committee operations in Canada clearly contrasted with the situation in the Kenyan Parliament where facilities offered for Committee operations are grossly inadequate especially in terms of research staff, facilities and financial resources at Committees' disposal.



Nevertheless the experience gained and observations made highlighted various strengths in the operations of the Committee system in Kenya and clearly demonstrated that the latter has achieved a lot as far as committee operations are concerned and that what is required is the dedication and commitment of all the players towards making the requisite changes and for the Members to exhaust the powers inherent in the Standing Orders as far as committee operations are concerned.

We are very grateful to the Canadian Government and CIDA for agreeing to sponsor a large delegation of seventeen Members of Parliament along with three Senior Members of Staff. We are also greatly indebted to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya for initiating the programme and granting leave for such a large delegation to participate in the programme. Our special thanks also go to the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff through whose efforts, the production of this report has been made possible.

**The following were the Members of the Delegation:-**

1. Hon. J.H.O. Omino, M.P. - Deputy Speaker & Leader of the Delegation

**DC-A- ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

2. Hon. Wycliffe W. Osundwa, M.P. - Chairman

**DC-B-ON ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

3. Hon. Darius M. Mbela, M.P. - Chairman

**DC-C ON EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

4. Hon. George Owino Acholla, M.P. - Chairman

**DC-D- ON HEALTH, HOUSING, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

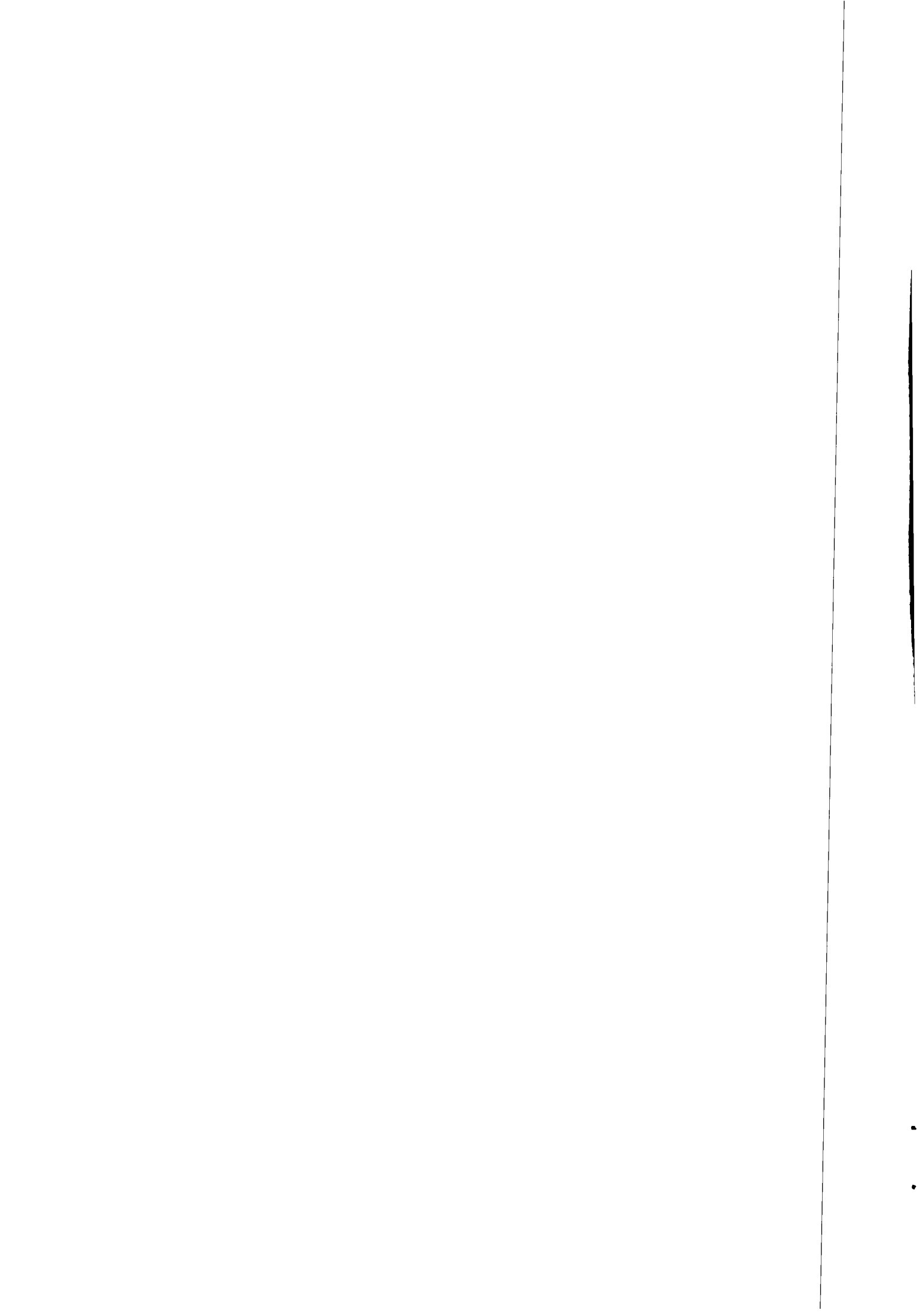
5. Dr. the Hon. Newton W. Kulundu, M.P. - Chairman

**DC - E- ON ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL SECURITY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

6. Hon. Antony K. Kimetto, M.P. - Chairman

**DC-F- ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND TRADE**

7. Hon. Simeon M. Mkalla, M.P. - Chairman



### **DC-H- ON DEFENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**

8. Hon. David M. Musila, M.P. - Chairman

### **ANTI-CORRUPTION SELECT COMMITTEE**

9. Hon. Musikari N. Kombo, M.P. - Chairman

10. Hon. Suleiman Kamolleh, M.P. - Vice-Chairman

### **CHAIRMEN'S PANEL**

11. Hon. Samuel Poghio, M.P.

12. Hon. Gitobu Imanyara, M.P.

### **PUBLIC INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

13. Hon. Mwangi Githiomi, M.P. - Chairman

### **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

14. Hon. David Mwiraria, M.P.

15. Hon. Zipora Kitony, M.P. - Committee Member

16. Hon. Martha Karua, M.P. - Committee Member

17. Hon. Josephine Sinyo, M.P. - Committee Member

### **PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS**

18. Mr. Patrick G. Gichohi - Deputy Clerk

19. Mr. Michael R. Sialai - First Clerk Assistant

20. Ms Phylis Mirungu - First Clerk Assistant

