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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION (2025)


DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN  
RELATIONS

REPORT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES AND THE  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC) CONDUCTED FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	– African Continental Free Trade Area
AGOA	– African Growth and Opportunity Act
AI	– Artificial Intelligence
AIA	– Appropriation-in-Aid
Amb	– Ambassador
ANC	– Amani National Congress (Kenya political party)
BCIU	– Business Council for International Understanding
BSD	– Bilateral Strategic Dialogue
CCA	– Corporate Council on Africa
CEO	– Chief Executive Officer
CUEA	– Catholic University of Eastern Africa
DC	– District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.)
EAC	– East African Community
FSA	– Foreign Service Allowance
FTA	– Free Trade Agreement
FY	– Financial Year
HVAC	– Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
IFC	– International Finance Corporation
IFMIS	– Integrated Financial Management Information System
IMF	– International Monetary Fund
KDIP	– Kenya Diaspora Investment Platform
KNCCI	– Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KTB	– Kenya Tourism Board
MDAs	– Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MCS	– Mobile Consular Services
MOUs	– Memoranda of Understanding
MP	– Member of Parliament
OAS	– Organization of American States
ODM	– Orange Democratic Movement (Kenya political party)
PFM Act	– Public Finance Management Act, 2012
PPP	– Public–Private Partnership
SMEs	– Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
STEM	– Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STIP	– Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership
TIFA	– Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
UCLA	– University of California, Los Angeles
UDA	– United Democratic Alliance (Kenya political party)
UDM	– United Democratic Movement (Kenya political party)
UN	– United Nations
USA	– United States of America
WDM-K	– Wiper Democratic Movement–Kenya
WTO	– World Trade Organization

## LIST OF ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Signed list of Members who attended the Sitting which considered and adopted the Report  
Annexure 2: Minutes of the Committee Sitting which considered and adopted the Report

## LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD

This report presents the findings of an oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations to the Kenyan Diplomatic Missions in the United States of America, specifically the Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California, and the Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. The visit was undertaken in exercise of the Committee's constitutional mandate to oversee Kenya's foreign relations, as well as to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's missions abroad.

The United States remains one of Kenya's most significant bilateral partners, with relations dating back to 1964 and elevated to a strategic partnership in 2018. This partnership is anchored on five core pillars: economic prosperity, defence cooperation, democratic governance, multilateral engagement, and public health. Within this framework, Kenya maintains three diplomatic missions in the U.S. - the Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate-General in Los Angeles, and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

The Committee's visit was driven by the need to assess progress made, identify challenges faced, and explore opportunities available to the missions in fulfilling their mandates. At the Consulate in Los Angeles, emerging opportunities in tourism promotion, creative industries, diaspora engagement, and academic partnerships were examined. The Consulate's initiatives in film diplomacy, sports, and cultural promotion were noted as promising, particularly in light of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, but requiring structured follow-through and strategic support. The need for sustainable consular services, enhanced diaspora investment programs, and a stronger tourism presence on the West Coast emerged as pressing priorities.

At the Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Committee's attention was drawn to critical issues in trade, education, diaspora engagement, and property management. While the Embassy has made progress in advocating for the renewal of AGOA, promoting academic linkages, and engaging the diaspora, its operations are constrained by staffing gaps, budgetary limitations, procurement inefficiencies, and high recurrent costs, including unsustainable residential leases. These challenges underscore the need for reforms in mission financing, property utilization, and procurement processes to safeguard public resources and ensure operational efficiency.

During the visit, the Committee also engaged with key stakeholders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where opportunities were identified in expanding market access for Kenyan products, deepening investment linkages in ICT and textiles, and advancing labour mobility for skilled professionals such as nurses, teachers, and IT specialists. These conversations highlighted the vast but underutilized potential for Kenya to position itself more strategically in the U.S. market and global innovation platforms.

This report therefore captures not only the observations made but also the Committee's recommendations for strengthening Kenya's diplomatic presence in the United States. By implementing these recommendations, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, working with other relevant state agencies, can enhance service delivery, improve cost efficiency, and expand Kenya's visibility in critical sectors. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that Kenya's diplomatic missions abroad reflect the country's stature as a regional leader and serve as effective vehicles for advancing national interests in an increasingly competitive international environment.

**Hon. Fredrick Ikana, MP**

## **1.0 PREFACE**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1. This report documents an oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations to Kenyan Diplomatic Missions in the United States of America (The Consulate General in Los Angeles and the Embassy in Washington DC) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025
2. The delegation visited the missions to assess the progress made, the challenges faced and the opportunities available in the Missions. The visit provided not only an opportunity for carrying out the Committee's oversight mandate but also a learning environment for Members of the Committee on the thematic areas the Committee oversights.
3. The visit targeted the USA, a significant bilateral partner to Kenya, which hosts three Kenyan diplomatic missions. First is the Embassy of Kenya in Washington, D.C. This is the primary diplomatic mission in the US and serves as the official representation to the US. Second, there is the Consulate-General of Kenya in Los Angeles, California. This mission serves the western region of the United States, focusing on diaspora services, promoting investment and tourism, and facilitating educational and cultural exchange. Finally, there is the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, New York. It is accredited to the UN and plays a vital role in multilateral diplomacy. Kenya advances its global interests here, particularly in peace and security, climate change, and development goals.

### **1.2 Mandate of the Committee**

4. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations is established under the National Assembly Standing Order No. 216. The functions and mandate of the Committee include, among others, to:
  - a) investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;
  - b) study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.
  - c) on a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate.
  - d) study, assess and analyse the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
  - e) 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;
5. The Committee's subject matters are stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and are: Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries including territorial waters, international relations, and veteran affairs.

### **1.3 Oversight**

7. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following MDAs: The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the State Department for East African Community (EAC) Affairs, the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

## 1.4 Committee Membership

8. The Committee, initially constituted by the House on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and reconstituted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025, brings together a diverse and experienced team of legislators entrusted with steering the nation's Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Policy oversight agenda. Its membership is as follows:

### Chairperson

**Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.**

Belgut Constituency

**UDA Party**

### Vice-Chairperson

**Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.**

Mandera North Constituency

**UDM Party**

### Members

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, CBS, MP  
Suba North Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Joshua Kandie, MP  
Baringo Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.,  
Gilgil Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, MP  
Kinangop Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, CBS, MP  
Kamukunji Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, MP  
Sabatia Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP  
Kajiado Central Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP  
Shinyalu Constituency

**ANC Party**

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP  
Kitui County

**WDM-K**

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, MP  
Lagdera Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP  
Imenti Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Anne Muratha, MP  
Kiambu County

**UDA Party**

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP  
Saboti Constituency

**ODM Party**

## 1.5 Committee Secretariat

9. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi  
**Lead Clerk/First Clerk Assistant**  
**Head of Secretariat**

Mr. Lenny Muchangi  
**Legal Counsel II**

Mr. Bernard Njeru  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Martin Sigei  
**Research Officer III**

Mr. Edwin Machuki  
**Fiscal Analyst III**

Mr. Salat Ali  
**Principal Serjeant-at-Arms**

Ms. Noelle Chelagat  
**Media Relations Officer II**

## 1.6 Delegation

10. The delegation comprised of:

- 1) **Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP**
- 2) Mr. Peter Chemweno
- 3) Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi

**-Leader of Delegation**  
-Director, Departmental Committees  
-First Clerk Assistant/Delegation Secretary

## 2.0 BACKGROUND ON KENYAN-US RELATIONS

11. The United States established diplomatic relations with Kenya in 1964, shortly after Kenya's independence, marking the beginning of a strong and enduring partnership. As East Africa's leading economy and a regional hub, Kenya plays a vital diplomatic role, prompting both countries to elevate their ties to a strategic partnership in 2018. This bilateral dialogue focuses on five key pillars—economic prosperity, defence cooperation, democratic governance, multilateral engagement, and public health—reflecting the depth and breadth of their shared interests.
12. Kenya's trade with the United States, particularly under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), has become a cornerstone of its export strategy, with apparel, coffee, tea, macadamia nuts, and fresh produce driving significant growth. While Kenya mainly exports agricultural products and imports high-value finished goods, the US has emerged as a key market for manufactured apparel, thanks to AGOA's trade preferences. Enacted in 2000, AGOA was designed to promote sustainable economic development and political reform in Sub-Saharan Africa by encouraging trade, investment, and private sector growth. Kenya's eligibility under AGOA has led to expanded export volumes, increased employment in the apparel sector, and greater capital investment, all supported by national AGOA strategies that have streamlined trade policies and enhanced market access.
13. In 2022, Kenya and the United States launched the Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP), a high-level initiative aimed at deepening economic ties through commitments that promote investment, inclusive growth, and support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. This partnership complements Kenya's domestic economic goals and regional integration efforts, aligning with broader African trade frameworks. In 2023, STIP was reinforced through coordinated efforts with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the East African Community under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), reflecting a growing US commitment to structured, mutually beneficial trade relations with Kenya and the broader region.
14. The United States and Kenya enjoy a longstanding partnership in security and defence, underpinned by over 70 years of collaboration through various defence cooperation frameworks. The US has played a key role in professionalising the Kenyan military, strengthening counterterrorism capabilities, enhancing maritime and border security, and supporting Kenya's regional peacekeeping operations. In 2023, this relationship was reaffirmed through a Joint Defence Cooperation Framework aimed at boosting interoperability, defence innovation, joint training, and efforts against violent extremism.
15. Beyond security, the partnership extends to educational and cultural diplomacy. Kenya and the US engage in numerous academic and professional exchange programmes, such as the Fulbright Program and the Mandela Washington Fellowship. These initiatives promote English-language education, academic mobility, and people-to-people ties. American Spaces across Kenya serve as platforms for free cultural events, educational advising, and language instruction, contributing to mutual understanding and inclusive development.
16. Overall, the Kenya–US diplomatic relationship has matured into a comprehensive alliance spanning trade, security, governance, and education. Through mechanisms like AGOA, STIP, and the Defence Cooperation Framework, and complemented by vibrant educational exchanges, both countries continue to advance shared goals of regional stability, prosperity, and people-centred diplomacy.

### 3.0 VISIT TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

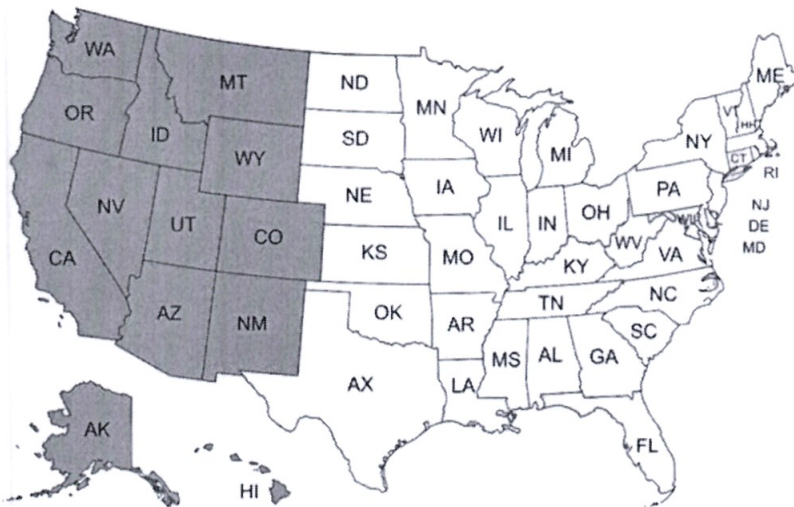
17. The delegation visited the Consulate General in Los Angeles, California from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. The proceedings of the visit are recorded hereunder:

#### 3.1 MEETING WITH THE CONSULATE STAFF

18. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025, in a meeting with the Mission staff led by Amb. Ezra Chiloba Simiyu, the Consul-General, the delegation was briefed on various aspects of the Embassy as follows.

19. The Consulate-General in Los Angeles was officially established in December 2004, following a period of restructuring Kenya's foreign missions. Initially, it operated as a tourist office, which was closed in September 2000 during a government-led review and reorganization of Kenya's overseas representation.

20. The Consulate's mandate is to promote Kenya's trade, investment, diaspora engagement, and cultural diplomacy across thirteen western US states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming—aligning with Kenya's foreign policy objectives and serving a growing diaspora community.



21. The Consulate envisions itself as a dynamic mission contributing to a peaceful, prosperous, and globally competitive Kenya. Its mission is to project, promote, and protect Kenya's interests, values, and image across the West Coast states of the United States. Strategically, it aims to advance economic and commercial diplomacy, strengthen diaspora engagement and consular services, promote public diplomacy and cultural heritage, and build robust policy, legal, and institutional capacity.

22. **Leadership and Staffing** - The Consulate is headed by a Consul-General, supported by six officers from headquarters, three locally engaged staff, and three temporary staff on short-term contracts. They included:

No	Name	Designation	J/G
1.	Amb. Ezra Chiloba Simiyu	Consul General	T
2.	Amb. Walkowa Odinga	Deputy Consul General	T
3.	Beatrice Muthigani	Minister II	S
4.	Robert Kemboi	First Secretary	N
5.	Robert Bett	Immigration attaché	P
6.	Maureen Kimeli	Financial attaché	P
7.	Matred Limo	Administrative attaché	L
8.	Irene Wamuyu Johnson	Office Clerk	Contractual
9.	Brandon Cha	Driver	Contractual
10.	Phoebe Omollo	Clerk	Contractual
11.	Emmanuel Nakitare	Clerk	Temporary
12.	Nasser Manzi	Driver	Temporary
13.	Sis Appolino	Housekeeper	Temporary

23. Previous Consuls-General who have served the Consulate are:

- 1) Amb. Nyambura Kamau - 2004-2009
- 2) Amb. Wenwa Odinga - 2009-2014
- 3) Amb. Njeri Kamau - 2019- 2021
- 4) Amb. Thomas Kwaka - 2022-2024
- 5) Amb. Ezra Chiloba - 2024- Date

24. **Diplomatic Engagement** - To advance its diplomatic agenda, the Consulate collaborates with 91 consular missions in Los Angeles and engages closely with political leaders and local governments across its 13-state jurisdiction. It also facilitates high-level visits by Kenyan dignitaries to the region. Key visits that had been made in the period just prior to the inspection visit included:

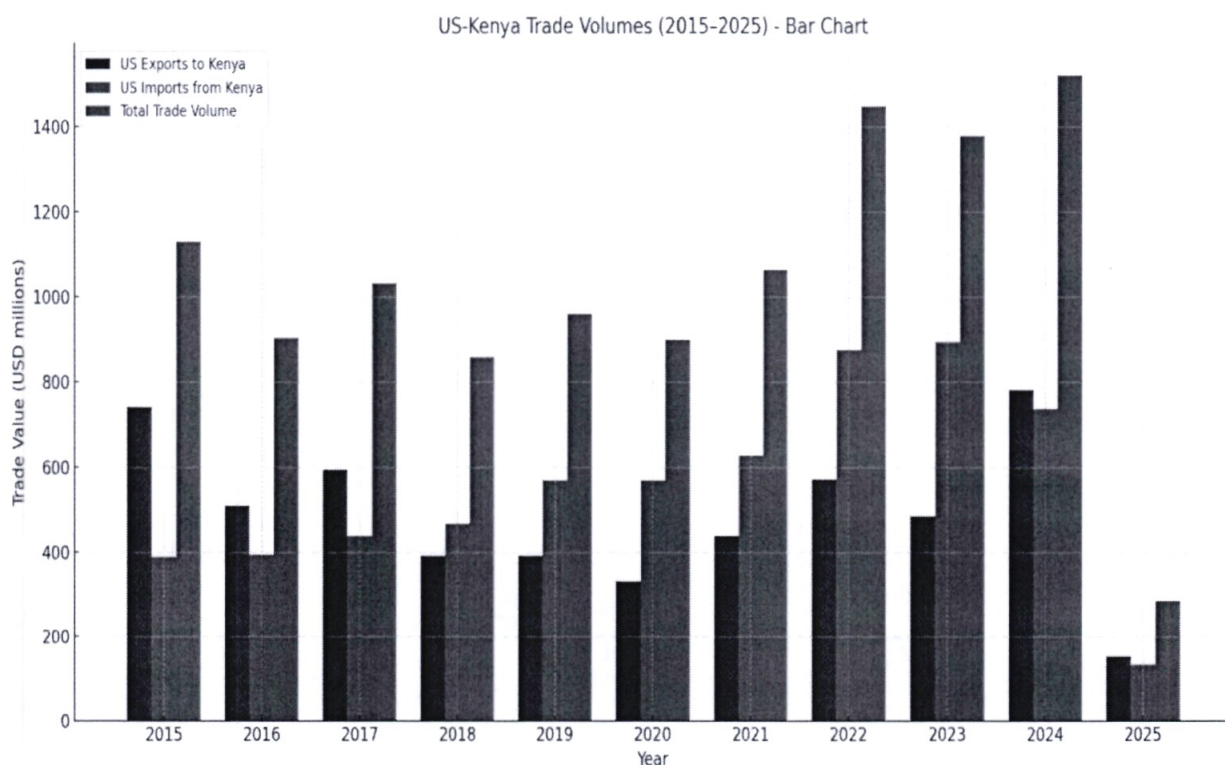
- 1) H.E. the President Dr. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H. on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
- 2) H.E. First Lady Mrs. Rachel Ruto E.G.H. from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023
- 3) Dr. Abraham Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs from 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023
- 4) Hon. Ababu Namwamba E.G.H., Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy & Sports from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
- 5) Mr. Ismail Maalim Madey, Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy from 10-12 July 2023
- 6) Mr. Patrick Mariru, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Defence from 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- 7) Hon. Jonathan Mueke, Principal Secretary, State Department for Livestock Development from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

25. **Promotion of trade, tourism & investments** - The Pacific region of the United States, home to some of the world's most powerful economies - including California, the fourth-largest globally - is a hub for global conglomerates such as Amazon, Apple, Boeing, Google, and Microsoft. It leads in manufacturing, technological innovation, and green technologies, particularly in Silicon Valley, Seattle, Colorado, Idaho, and Nevada. The region also boasts thriving sectors in agriculture, mining,

shipping, tourism, and fishing, with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach ranking among the top three in the Western Hemisphere. This makes the region a strategic partner for Kenya’s trade, tourism, and investment promotion.

26. To harness these opportunities, the Consulate has initiated key engagements, including linking the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) through a proposed Memorandum of Understanding. It has also engaged the Kenya Flower Council to explore partnerships with Mayesh Flowers for the supply of Kenyan cut flowers and supported Dr. Christine Wachira, a Kenyan entrepreneur, in introducing the Tusker brand in the region. Further discussions are ongoing to leverage her network to promote Kenyan tea and coffee. With its advanced industries and global influence, the Pacific region presents immense potential for deepening Kenya’s trade and investment footprint.

### US-Kenya Trade in goods Volumes (2015–2025) in millions USD



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c7790.html>)*

27. **Promotion of tourism, entertainment and the Kenyan Creative industry** - The Pacific region, particularly Los Angeles, is a global hub for media, entertainment, and tourism, attracting millions with its iconic landmarks and studios. From the Hollywood Sign and Santa Monica beaches to Walt Disney Concert Hall and Universal Studios, the area boasts a vibrant creative economy backed by some of the world’s leading production houses including Warner Bros, Sony Pictures, Paramount Pictures, and Disney. With a population that enjoys high disposable income and a rich culture of entertainment, the region offers vast potential for promoting Kenya as both a tourist destination and a filming location.

28. To tap into these opportunities, the Consulate has actively engaged major film academies and industry players to position Kenya as a preferred filming destination. It facilitated government-level meetings with institutions such as the Los Angeles Film Academy and Chapman University for the development of the Kenya Film School. Productive discussions were also held with the President of the Association of Film Commissioners International and Michael Helfant, former Marvel Studios CEO, on strategies like tax incentives, talent attraction, and infrastructure development to grow Kenya’s film industry.
29. The Consulate is further promoting Kenyan storytelling and creative talent by partnering with entertainment leaders such as Mycotoo and engaging Kenyans working in Hollywood—including actors, producers, scriptwriters, and comedians—to serve as cultural ambassadors. Discussions with Global Grammys Ventures are also underway to explore the possibility of hosting the African Records Academy Headquarters in Kenya, reinforcing efforts to establish the country as the creative economy hub of Africa.
30. **Diaspora Engagement** - According to the 2020 American Bureau of Census, the Kenyan diaspora in the Pacific region of the U.S. stands at approximately 27,700, excluding family members, with the majority residing in California, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico, working in sectors such as education, technology, healthcare, and construction. However, the actual population is likely higher due to a significant number of undocumented Kenyans across the region.

	<b>State</b>	<b>Population of Kenyans</b>
1.	Alaska	55
2.	Arizona	2783
3.	California	11448
4.	Colorado	2427
5.	Hawaii	5
6.	Idaho	27
7.	Montana	44
8.	Nevada	763
9.	New Mexico	247
10.	Oregon	1369
11.	Utah	410
12.	Washington	7871
13.	Wyoming	251
		<b>27,700</b>

**Source:** *American Bureau of Census, 2020*

31. The Kenyan diaspora comprises professionals across diverse fields, many of whom have acquired U.S. citizenship while maintaining strong ties to Kenya. Recognizing their vital role in promoting trade, investment, and national development, the Consulate actively engages them through meetings, virtual forums, and public events. The region also presents significant opportunities for Kenyan talent, technology transfer, and expanded trade linkages.
32. **Delivery of Immigration and Consular services** - The Consulate offers a wide range of immigration and consular services, including passport renewals, emergency travel documents, visa processing, ID and birth certificate issuance, police clearance, and document authentication, alongside support for

Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). By implementing an appointment system, the Consulate has enhanced efficiency and reduced waiting times, with feedback showing general satisfaction. Between March and April 2023, in collaboration with key government agencies and the Embassy in Washington DC, the Consulate conducted a Mobile Consular Outreach in six U.S. states, delivering vital services to the diaspora and processing over 2,000 passport applications and 800 national IDs, while generating \$36,916 in revenue.

33. The following were figures for the Consular Services rendered during the 2024/2025 financial year as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:

S/NO	Consular Service	Total
1.	ePassport	354
2.	ID Cards	207
3.	Emergence Certificates	40
4.	Regaining Citizenship	26
5.	Dual Citizenship declaration	48
6.	Letter of no objection for repatriation of deceased Kenyans	11
7.	Birth Certificate	51
8.	Police Clearance Certificate	13
9.	Authentication of Kenyan documents	4
10.	Renunciation of citizenship	0

34. **Voter registration and voting** - The Consulate is a gazetted voter registration and polling centre. It facilitated voting by registered Kenyans during the last general elections of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

35. **Promotion of Culture, Sports and the Arts** - The Consulate actively promotes Kenya's image and culture by supporting and participating in various sports and cultural events across the Pacific region. These include the HSBC Los Angeles Rugby Sevens, where Kenya's national team competes and the Consulate collaborates with partners like AEG Worldwide and Soul Focus Sports, as well as the annual LA Marathon, where the Consulate engages organizers to create more opportunities for emerging Kenyan athletes. Looking ahead, the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics offers a major platform to showcase Kenya's talent and heritage. The Consulate also engages the diaspora through events such as the Sauti Sol tour, Camp Toyoyo football tournament, Miss Kenya USA, the Mulembe Cultural Festival, and multiple town hall meetings across various cities.

36. **Education** - The Consulate is actively fostering academic partnerships between Kenyan and Pacific States of the USA universities to promote student and faculty exchange, joint research, and scholarships. Notably, Machakos University is pursuing collaboration with California Polytechnic University in engineering and dryland farming, with partnership documents already exchanged. Discussions between Charles R. Drew University and the Catholic University of Eastern Africa are advancing on nurse training programs, while the University of Nairobi and UCLA are exploring joint research on infectious diseases to enhance Kenya's outbreak response capacity.

37. **Financial Status of the Consulate** - The Consulate operates solely on a recurrent budget, with no development funding allocated. The only agency function seconded to the Consulate is from the State

Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. Below is a summary of the State Department for Foreign Affairs' budget over the past five years.

Financial Year	Approved Budget
2020/2021	254,720,524.00
2021/2022	260,663,386.00
2022/2023	230,925,055.00
2023/2024	253,454,874.00
2024/2025	253,454,874.00

38. The Appropriation-In-Aid (AIA) collection summary below provides an overview of the revenue generated by the Consulate from services rendered:

Financial Year	AIA Budget (KES)	AIA Collection (KES)
2018/2019	10,960,450.00	8,842,853.00
2019/2020	12,000,000.00	6,522,506.50
2020/2021	12,500,000.00	791,481.50
2021/2022	12,500,000.00	587,027.50
2022/2023	7,614,000.00	5,426,273.78
2023/2024	8,340,064.00	9,734,150.60
2024/2025	6,340,064.00	5,197,421.42

39. The decline in Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) collections during FY 2020/21 and 2021/22 was primarily due to the impact of COVID-19 and the transition to the E-Citizen platform, which redirected consular service payments directly to the central government. However, the subsequent rise in AIA revenue in FY 2022/23 and 2023/24 is attributed to the successful rollout of Mobile Consular Services (MCS) by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, which expanded access to services and significantly boosted collections.

40. While absorption remains strong, foreign exchange losses continue to reduce effective spending capacity. The table below presents the Consulate's budget absorption performance over the years:

Financial Year	Approved Budget + Supplementary	Unspent	FX Loss	Consumed Budget	Absorption %
2021/2022	267,987,874.00	27,255,125.66	8,672,669.58	240,732,748.34	89.83%
2022/2023	238,803,055.00	21,433,184.01	16,978,208.88	234,348,079.87	98.13%
2023/2024	253,454,874.00	14,906,324.13	12,139,277.02	250,687,826.89	98.91%

41. Each month, the Consulate submits detailed financial reports to the Ministry, including the Cash Book and Vouchers summarizing payments and receipts with supporting documents, Bank Reconciliation statements to align bank records with the cash book, Imprest Reports tracking surrendered imprests, and Expenditure Returns or Vote Book Returns showing budget balances after expenditures and commitments.

42. The Consulate had no ongoing or planned capital projects, though it had proposed that the government consider purchasing the Chancery and Consul-General's residence to reduce high rental costs in Los Angeles. The Consulate's assets included office and residential inventory, along with three motor vehicles. A request had been made to the State Department for Foreign Affairs for funding to replace the aging Representational vehicle, whose maintenance costs had become unsustainable.
43. The Mission continues to face a number of operational challenges that hinder its effectiveness. Chief among these are frequent changes in U.S. administration, which bring shifts in trade tariffs and immigration policies that directly affect economic diplomacy and consular services, as well as frequent turnover in the Office of the Consul-General, which disrupts institutional continuity. In addition, delays in passport processing caused by centralized procedures in Nairobi, coupled with limited staffing levels that slow responses during peak periods, have undermined service delivery. Although technological integration has improved efficiency, occasional system downtimes and the lack of fully developed online service platforms continue to constrain digital engagement.
44. Equally pressing are financial and structural constraints. The Consulate operates under inadequate budget allocations that fail to match its expansive jurisdiction, high operational demands, and the elevated cost of living in Los Angeles. Delayed disbursement of funds often leads to late bill payments, penalties, and unmet obligations, while foreign exchange losses further erode the real value of its budget. Moreover, the mission's budget is not aligned to its current establishment structure, creating gaps in staffing and operations. Procurement processes are also complicated by conflicting requirements between Kenyan laws and U.S. market practices, and difficulties in securing tax exemptions add to the financial burden. Together, these challenges significantly limit the Mission's ability to deliver on its diplomatic and consular mandate.
45. To enhance operational effectiveness, the Consulate emphasized the need for stability in the deployment of Consuls-General and Foreign Service Officers so as to safeguard continuity and institutional memory. It further recommended the decentralization of passport processing to ease delays, alongside a review of budget ceilings that would better reflect its mandate, expenditure patterns, staffing needs, and the high cost of living in the host country. In addition, the Consulate urged an increase in the frequency of Mobile Consular Services to at least twice a year, coupled with timely disbursement of funds to prevent service interruptions and penalties.
46. Equally, the Consulate highlighted the importance of investing in IT infrastructure to achieve full digitalization of consular services, including the provision of a Digital ID processing kit and targeted staff training to manage technical issues linked to the e-Citizen platform. It also underscored the necessity of incorporating foreign exchange buffers in budget planning to offset currency fluctuations, harmonizing procurement practices with U.S. legal frameworks while remaining compliant with Kenyan systems, and pursuing enhanced tax exemption agreements through diplomatic channels to reduce operational costs.

### 3.2 INSPECTION OF THE CHANCERY AND THE RESIDENCE

47. The delegation then proceeded to inspect the Chancery and the Residence of the Head of Mission and noted that:

- a) The chancery and the residence of the Head of Mission were both rental properties. However, both were in good condition and well-suited for the effective execution of diplomatic functions. They provide adequate space, security, and representational value, offering a welcoming environment for both official engagements and consular services.
- b) There was need for the government consider purchasing properties both for Chancery and residence of the Head of Mission to avoid the high and recurring rental costs associated with operating in Los Angeles. Such an investment would ensure long-term financial savings, secure the mission's presence in a competitive property market, and reflect a commitment to sustaining Kenya's diplomatic stature in the region.

#### 4.0 VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC

48. The delegation visited Kenya's Embassy in Washington D.C. from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 to assess progress, identify challenges, and explore opportunities within the Mission. As part of the oversight mandate, the delegation toured the Chancery and government-owned properties, held meetings with Embassy staff, and engaged with the President of the U.S.-Africa Business Center. The visit sought to enhance understanding of the Embassy's functions and operational context, with the goal of developing informed recommendations to strengthen its capacity in representing Kenya in the United States and its five accredited countries—Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The proceedings of the visit are recorded hereunder.

#### 4.1 MEETING WITH THE EMBASSY STAFF

49. The delegation met with the Embassy staff, led by H.E. Ambassador David Kerich, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The delegation was briefed on various aspects of the Embassy as follows:

50. **Background** - The Kenya Embassy in Washington, D.C., established on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1964 following Kenya's independence, is mandated to promote, protect, and project the country's political, economic, and social interests in the United States. Since its inception, the Embassy has played a central role in strengthening the longstanding Kenya–U.S. relationship through active diplomacy and international collaboration. This bilateral relationship is anchored in shared interests in trade, investment, security, and multilateral engagement, and was elevated to a strategic partnership through the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD) launched in 2019, which focuses on five key pillars: economic prosperity, defense cooperation, democracy and civilian security, multilateral and regional issues, and public health.

51. **Mandate** - The Embassy is mandated to implement Kenya's foreign policy and to protect, promote, and project the country's interests in the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. It also represents Kenya's diplomatic interests at the Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Additionally, the Embassy serves as Kenya's Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States (OAS), fostering solidarity and enhancing cooperation with American states.

52. **Functions and Responsibilities** – The Embassy has the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) First, the Embassy is strengthening bilateral engagements and strategic partnerships with the United States by enhancing diplomatic relations and leveraging Kenya's leadership role in multilateral organizations to shape regional and global agendas. It is also deepening cooperation through the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue and expanding foreign relations to reinforce Kenya's strategic positioning globally.
- b) Second, it is protecting Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity by using diplomacy to build strong partnerships with key stakeholders in the U.S., while addressing any actions that are amounting to external interference in Kenya's internal affairs.
- c) Further, the Embassy is promoting regional and global peace, security, and stability by enhancing engagements with U.S. institutions and stakeholders, positioning Kenya as a key ally and anchor state in advancing peace and conflict resolution efforts across the region and beyond.

- d) In addition, it is promoting economic cooperation, trade, investment, and tourism by advancing Kenya's economic interests through bilateral, regional, and multilateral engagements. The Embassy is facilitating business forums, trade fairs, and exhibitions in the U.S., and is forging public-private partnerships with the U.S. government and private sector in support of President Ruto's bottom-up economic transformation agenda.
- e) Equally, the Embassy is enhancing diaspora engagement and strengthening the delivery of consular services by creating awareness on investment opportunities, maintaining diaspora databases, supporting diaspora associations, and issuing official documents such as passports, visas, and IDs. It is also providing assistance to Kenyans in distress, updating its website regularly, and hosting virtual consultative meetings.
- f) Furthermore, it is strengthening public diplomacy and stakeholder engagement by actively communicating Kenya's foreign policy priorities and positively shaping global perceptions of the country.
- g) Finally, the Embassy is promoting socio-cultural diplomacy through education, sports, global health, and culture by profiling Kenya's rich heritage, hosting cultural events, and leveraging sporting achievements. It is connecting Kenyan universities with U.S. institutions for academic exchanges and joint research, while sharing information on scholarships and fellowships available to Kenyan students through U.S. programs and universities.

53. **Achievements** – In performing its functions, the Embassy had achieved the following milestones:

- a) **Historic State Visit:** In May 2024, the Embassy successfully coordinated President William Ruto's historic state visit to the United States—the first by an African Head of State since 2008. During the visit, the U.S. Senate introduced a resolution marking the 60th anniversary of U.S.–Kenya diplomatic relations, culminating in Kenya being designated a major non-NATO ally—the first sub-Saharan African country to attain this status. This designation is paving the way for deeper defense cooperation, including access to U.S. military equipment, joint training programs, and collaborative research in security technologies.
- b) **Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD):** The Embassy facilitated the third session of the Kenya-U.S. Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD) held in Washington, D.C., which focused on five priority areas: trade and investment, defense cooperation, democracy and governance, regional and multilateral issues, and public health. These high-level engagements continue to shape the strategic partnership between the two countries, with the fourth BSD scheduled to take place in Kenya, reflecting balanced diplomatic reciprocity and growing mutual interest.
- c) **Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP):** The Embassy played a key role in facilitating eight rounds of negotiations under the U.S.–Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership, aimed at strengthening economic ties and enhancing trade flows. With the transition into the Trump administration, the Embassy proactively initiated engagements with relevant U.S. stakeholders to explore the possibility of launching negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which would further deepen bilateral trade relations and expand Kenya's market access.
- d) **Kenya–U.S. Private Sector Cooperation:** The Embassy continues to deepen commercial diplomacy by collaborating with key U.S. business platforms such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), and Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU). These partnerships facilitate trade missions, networking sessions, and investment roundtables between U.S. and Kenyan private sector players, positioning Kenya as an attractive destination for investment and tourism.

- e) Promoting Kenyan Products and Cultural Diplomacy: To showcase Kenya’s products and heritage, the Embassy actively participates in international events such as the Specialty Coffee Association Expo, providing Kenyan coffee exporters with access to global buyers. Additionally, public diplomacy initiatives like Passport DC and Winter-national offer platforms to promote Kenya’s culture, cuisine, and tourism potential, enhancing the country’s visibility and soft power in the United States.
- f) Advocacy for AGOA Renewal: Recognizing the importance of continued preferential trade access, the Embassy has intensified its advocacy for the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), set to expire in September 2025. Through sustained engagement with U.S. legislators and trade officials, the Embassy is championing Kenya’s interests to ensure that AGOA’s renewal supports inclusive economic growth and sustains export gains.
- g) Strengthening Education Partnerships: The Embassy is actively reinforcing Kenya’s higher education priorities through institutional linkages, research collaborations, and academic exchange programs. Notable initiatives include partnerships between Tom Mboya University and the University of Tennessee, Egerton University and Bowie State University, and the Open University of Kenya and Howard University. These collaborations are helping to build academic capacity and promote innovation through joint programs and faculty development.
- h) Increased Diaspora Engagement and Enhanced Consular Services: The Embassy is continuously engaging the Kenyan diaspora in the U.S., which remains the largest source of remittances to Kenya—contributing 56 percent of the total inflows. It provides regular updates on trade, investment, and national opportunities, while also strengthening service delivery through Mobile Consular Services in cities like Seattle, Dallas, and Minnesota. Services offered include processing of e-passports, emergency travel certificates, dual citizenship documents, visa waivers, birth and marriage certificates, ID cards, police clearance, and assistance for distressed nationals. These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to diaspora welfare and national identity preservation.

54. **Opportunities** - Despite the notable achievements in Kenya–U.S. relations, there remain significant untapped opportunities that could further deepen and diversify this longstanding partnership. These include targeted tourism promotion to attract high-value American travelers, expansion of the creative economy through cultural exchanges and entertainment collaborations, exploration and development of critical and rare earth minerals to support green and high-tech industries, and the scaling up of value-added Kenyan exports to the U.S. market, moving beyond raw commodities to finished and branded products.

55. **Mission Staff Establishment** - The Embassy’s had an approved staff establishment of thirty four (34), with an in-post of fifteen (15) home based staff and fourteen (14) local staff as shown in the table below.

Designation	CSG	Approved	In-post	Variance
		A	B	C=(A-B)
Ambassador	T/4	1	1	0
Deputy Head Of Mission	T/4	1	1	0
Minister 1	T/4	1	1	0
Foreign Service Officers	R/6-S/5	2	0	2
Foreign Service Officers	P 7 & below	2	3	-1
Administrative Attaché		1	1	0
Financial Attaché	N/8 or P/7	1	1	0

Designation	CSG	Approved	In-post	Variance
		A	B	C=(A-B)
Records management		1	1	0
Sub Total		10	9	1
Agencies				
Defence Attaché		1	1	0
Education Attaché		1	1	0
Foreign Relations Officer		2	1	1
Trade Attaché		1	1	0
Immigration Attaché		2	2	0
Sub Total		7	6	1
Local staff				
Receptionist		1	1	0
Translator/Clerk		2	2	0
Consular Assistant		3	0	3
IT/ Clerk		1	1	0
Office Assistant/Messenger		1	1	0
Drivers		4	4	0
Chef		1	1	0
Housekeeper		2	2	0
Sub Total		15	12	3
Agencies (Defence Attaché)				
Driver		1	1	0
Clerk		1	1	0
Sub Total		2	2	0
Grand Total		34	29	5

56. **Operational Challenges:** The Embassy faces significant operational challenges arising from its *multiple accreditations*. In addition to its core mandate in the United States, the Embassy is also accredited to Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. However, the vast geography of its jurisdiction, coupled with the demanding nature of U.S. engagements, has limited its ability to fully leverage these additional accreditations and expand Kenya's diplomatic footprint in the region.

57. *Financial and budgetary constraints* further complicate operations. The Embassy continues to experience under-provision for critical activities such as local and foreign travel, national day celebrations, and procurement of essential equipment, while no development funds have been allocated for property repair and maintenance in FY 2024/25. This situation is worsened by foreign exchange fluctuations that erode the value of its budget, given that allocations are made in Kenya Shillings while expenditures are incurred in U.S. Dollars. Moreover, the migration of consular payments to the e-Citizen platform has reduced Appropriation-in-Aid revenue without corresponding exchequer support, leaving the Embassy unable to meet important obligations.

58. In addition, *procurement challenges* continue to undermine efficiency. The strict application of Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012 in the U.S. context creates rigidity, since the law does not adequately accommodate American legal and market practices. This has led to prolonged and costly processes, with requirements such as prior Ministry approval for procurements above Kshs. 500,000 limiting the Embassy's ability to respond swiftly to local needs. As a result, the mission struggles to undertake development-related projects and essential procurements in a timely and effective manner.
59. **Recommendations to enhance effectiveness** - To enhance its operational effectiveness, the Embassy recommended that its budgetary allocation be up scaled to match the level of representation and scope of responsibilities it carries, especially given its multiple accreditations and the strategic importance of U.S.–Kenya relations. In addition, the government should prioritize the establishment of Honorary Consuls in at least six key U.S. cities and one in Mexico City to expand Kenya's diplomatic outreach and provide services in areas far from Washington, D.C.
60. The Embassy further emphasized the need for a dedicated budgetary provision for diaspora engagement and mobile consular services. This would enable it to effectively reach the large and widely dispersed Kenyan community across the United States. Moreover, all items under operations and maintenance should be adequately funded to ensure the Embassy has the necessary resources and capacity to fulfill its mandate without disruption.
61. Equally important, the Embassy highlighted the need to explore funding through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to acquire additional residential properties, thereby reducing the long-term burden of high rental costs in Washington, D.C. It also called for regular budget reviews to account for foreign currency fluctuations that undermine purchasing power and urged the government to revise procurement thresholds. This would grant the Embassy greater flexibility and efficiency in undertaking procurements, particularly for essential services and projects that demand timely execution.
62. The delegation raised the following concerns with the management of the mission and the responses were as recorded hereunder:
- a) *On audit and accountability mechanisms* - The last audit of the Embassy was conducted in 2022 by internal auditors from the National Treasury and Economic Planning. Since then, the Embassy has progressively implemented the audit recommendations to address previous queries and has put in place robust internal controls to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable regulations.
  - b) *On diaspora service costing* - The Embassy lacks a specific budget for diaspora-related activities and relies on limited travel funds to support Mobile Consular Services and emergency visits. To effectively serve the Kenyan diaspora in the U.S., a dedicated budgetary allocation for diaspora engagement and consular outreach should be provided.
  - c) *On migration to the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) platform* - The Embassy had fully transitioned to the General Ledger (GL) Module of the IFMIS system, enabling real-time financial reporting and improved accountability.
  - d) *On proportion of the embassy's budget going to rent and property maintenance* - The Embassy's total budgetary provision for rent and property-related costs amounts to Kshs. 32,352,048.00, with

Kshs. 18,391,417.00 allocated for residential rent and Kshs. 13,960,631.00 for non-residential premises. This represents approximately 7.75% of the overall budget. In addition, Kshs. 3,759,641.00 is allocated for property maintenance, accounting for just 0.009% of the total budget. These figures highlight the significant financial burden of rental expenses and the relatively low allocation for maintaining government-owned properties.

e) *On breakdown of rental expenses per month:* The following table was provided.

S/No	Occupant	Amount (USD)	Amount (Kshs)
1.	Deputy Head of Mission	13,500	1,741,500
2.	Finance Attaché	3,700	477,300
3.	Administrative Attaché	3,500	451,500
4.	First Secretary	4,440	572,760
5.	Second Secretary	4,300	554,700

It was observed that despite the country owning several properties in Washington DC, the Deputy Head of Mission was renting a house and incurring a rental expense of Ksh. 1,741,500 per month. This was unsustainable and owned properties ought to be allocated in order of seniority to curb the huge rental expenses.

- f) *Embassy's financial autonomy to manage rent-related obligations* - The Embassy doesn't have financial autonomy over rent-related obligations, as lease agreements and rent ceilings are determined by the Ministry Headquarters. Property leases require approval from the Accounting Officer in Nairobi but rent is paid directly to landlords by the Embassy.
- g) *Lease management and negotiations* - The Embassy, through a Housing Committee constituted by the Head of Mission, negotiates all lease terms and renewals. The Committee conducts competitive procurement, documents its meetings, and submits approved recommendations and draft leases to the Ministry Headquarters for legal review and final approval by the Accounting Officer.
- h) *Audit and oversight of rental expenditure* - Rental expenditure at the Embassy is subject to multiple layers of compliance and audit, including reviews by the Ministry's Accounts Department, Internal Auditors, the National Treasury, and the Kenya National Audit Office. At the time of the visit, four government-owned residential properties were fully utilized by home-based officers, including the Ambassador, Head of Chancery, Second Secretary, and Records Officer, resulting in annual savings of approximately US\$ 342,000 (Kshs. 44.46 million) compared to leasing. To further reduce rental costs, the Ministry was exploring the development of additional housing units through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework by utilizing unoccupied government land in Washington DC.
- i) *On an advertisement for repairs of Government houses in Washington DC* - Following an inspection by officials from the Ministry Headquarters and the Public Works Department in August 2022, significant deterioration was noted in two government-owned houses—10201 Sorrel Avenue, Potomac, MD and 6228 32<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, Washington D.C.—necessitating urgent repairs to restore them to habitable standards. The refurbishment was funded under the Development Vote, with expenditures amounting to USD 374,779.26 for Kenya House, USD 107,350 for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street residence, and USD 40,215 for 4453 29<sup>th</sup> Street. All three properties are now fully occupied by home-based officers, including the Ambassador, Head of Chancery, and the Records Management Officer, thereby optimizing their use and preserving government assets.
- j) *On concurrent accreditation to Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua* - The Embassy is also accredited to the five Latin American countries. Acknowledging the untapped trade and investment potential, the Embassy plans to scale up engagements in sectors such as

agricultural exports, textiles and apparel, tourism, cultural exchange, and education in the coming financial years.

k) *Budget proposals for the 2025/2026 FY -*

- (i) *On justification of rental expenditure*, the Mission required Kshs. 47,034,000.00 for FY 2025/2026 to cover leased property payments, justified by annual rental increments and anticipated foreign exchange fluctuations.
- (ii) *On personnel-related expenditures*, the Embassy represents Kenya in six countries and key institutions like the World Bank, IMF, IFC, and OAS, and due to this broad mandate, the Ministry approved a staff establishment aligned with its growing workload (the Mission's staff establishment was provided).
- (iii) *On justification for Ksh. 8M for purchase of vehicles and Ksh. 3.5M for furniture and equipment*, the Mission urgently needed an additional official vehicle to support the rising number of high-level delegations, which often strain current transport capacity. It also required funds to replace outdated furniture and equipment, ensuring a functional work environment and maintaining Kenya's diplomatic image.
- (iv) *On a breakdown of Ksh. 74.8M for health insurance and staff are under the cover*, Healthcare in the U.S. is costly, and foreign diplomats are not covered by Medicare, requiring private insurance. The Embassy provides comprehensive Cigna Health Insurance for all home-based and long-term locally engaged staff.
- (v) *On the disparity between allocations for permanent (KES 11.7 million) and temporary employees (KES 145.6 million)*, the Kshs. 11.7 million allocation for permanent employees covers basic salaries for home-based staff but is retained in Nairobi and not remitted to the Mission. In contrast, the allocation for temporary employees is used by the Mission to pay all locally engaged staff, regardless of contract length. All locally engaged staff are hired under U.S. labor laws alongside Kenyan administrative rules for foreign missions, and following a January 2025 review, the Ministry approved the deployment of additional Foreign Service Officers and local staff to enhance service delivery.
- (vi) *On significant skew in personnel related expenditures, with basic salaries for permanent employees allocated KES 11.7 million, while allowances (both as part of salary and reimbursements) total KES 205 million. This means allowances account for over 94% of the total KES 217 million personnel compensation.* The basic salaries reflected in the Embassy's budget represent payments to home-based staff, which, although budgeted under the Mission, are retained and disbursed directly by the Ministry in Nairobi. Notably, house and commuter allowances are not payable once officers are deployed abroad. Personal allowances paid as part of salary refer to the Foreign Service Allowance (FSA) provided to home-based staff in Missions, with rent paid directly by the Embassy to landlords rather than as an allowance. The KES 11.5 million in personal allowance reimbursements covers medical expenses not fully met by the health insurance policy and is not a recurring monthly benefit. These claims are processed under strict internal controls and financial regulations, following both the Administrative Rules for Kenya Foreign Missions and oversight by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

## **4.2 INSPECTION OF THE CHANCERY AND OTHER STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES**

63. The delegation then proceeded to inspect the Chancery and the Residence of the Head of Mission and other residences for staff owned by the state in Washington DC. The delegation was informed of the following:

**a) Renovations at 10201 Sorrel Avenue, Potomac, MD (Kenya House)**

64. The official residence of the Kenyan Embassy in Potomac, known as Kenya House, underwent extensive interior and exterior renovations, in addition to significant HVAC repairs and a deep cleaning, with all works being accepted as complete on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The primary contract for interior and exterior work was awarded to Arora Remodeling, with the contract signed on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, for a total of \$169,500.00. This comprehensive project included the removal and reinstallation of the deck and outdoor tiling; a complete kitchen remodel with new flooring, cabinets, countertops, and appliances; and renovations of the master bathroom and four additional bathrooms with new toilets, glass shower doors, vanities, and sinks. Furthermore, the work covered the installation of new vanities and toilets in the ground floor powder room and butler's pantry, painting across all three levels of the house, and a full update of the laundry room.
65. Subsequently, a change order contract was signed with Arora Remodeling on July 25, 2024, for \$49,450.00 to cover additional work. This included painting the fence, adding floor tiles around the swimming pool, and numerous kitchen additions like a full backsplash, extra electrical lines, and a water purifier. Extra repairs, identified during the renovation process for unforeseen issues such as faulty kitchen wiring and mold, were approved on October 9, 2024, at an additional cost of \$14,400.00.
66. Separate contracts were also awarded for specific needs. John James Properties was awarded a contract in November 2023 for \$122,450 to replace existing windows with 16 new double-glazed Pella windows. An award for HVAC repairs was granted to Kharis Mechanical LLC on July 22, 2024, to replace faulty compressors for \$13,191.76. Finally, to prepare the residence for occupation, a contract for deep cleaning services was awarded to Rise Facility Services on January 20, 2025, for \$5,787.50, with the work taking place between December 8th and 10th, 2024.

**b) Renovations at 6228 32nd Street NW, Washington, D.C.**

67. The government house located at 6228 32nd Street NW in Washington D.C. underwent extensive renovations by John James Properties (JJP). The contract, signed in November 2023, was for a total of \$107,350. The work was officially completed, inspected, and accepted by the Contract Implementation Team on April 3, 2024.
68. The scope of the project was comprehensive, involving the demolition and renovation of four bathrooms, which included the installation of new toilets, vanities, and fixtures. The kitchen was completely demolished and rebuilt with 10 new cabinets, granite countertops, and new stainless steel appliances. In the basement, work included replacing existing water lines and installing a new washer and dryer. The attic floor was repaired, the room was repainted, and a new window AC unit was installed. The project also addressed structural issues, with the demolition of walls to assess plumbing, repair of staining and water intrusion, and installation of new drywall. A new garage door and opener were fitted, and exposed electrical wires were repaired.

**c) Repairs at 4453 29<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C.**

69. Repairs at the property located at 4453 29th Street NW were carried out by John James Properties (JJP) under a contract signed on March 28, 2024, for a total of \$40,215.00. The contract works were completed, inspected, and accepted on June 21, 2024.
70. The scope of work included repairs to the front and rear doors and fixing the front wooden door frame. A notable change to the original plan occurred with the flooring; after removing the old carpet, the wooden floors were found to be in good condition and were instead cleaned, repaired, and polished

with no variation in cost. New tiles were installed in the dining room, and laminate flooring was replaced in the basement and the upper laundry room. The project also involved significant electrical and lighting upgrades, with the replacement of fixtures and the installation of multiple recessed lights and ceiling fans. The interior of the house received touch-up paint, while the exterior trim was given two fresh coats. Other work included the installation of two new garage door openers with remotes and the replacement of rain dormers at the front of the house.

#### **4.3 RENTAL PROPERTIES**

71. At the time of the visit, the delegation was informed that the Embassy had rental properties for its staff as follows:
72. Deputy Head of Mission's Lease - The Embassy leased 1814 19th Street NW, Washington, D.C., for Chris Kirigua and family from Nov 2024 to Nov 2026 at \$13,500 per month (\$324,000 total), with a \$13,500 deposit and annual +2% rent adjustments.
73. Finance Attaché's Lease - The Embassy leased 6 Leafy Overlook Ct, Gaithersburg, MD, for David Mwangi Kabata and family (Nov 2024–Oct 2026) at \$3,700 monthly including fees, with a \$3,450 deposit and a Diplomatic Clause for early termination.
74. Administrative Attaché's Lease - The Rockville, MD residence at 2997 Glenora Ln was extended to Aug 2024 for Evaline Onyuma and family at \$3,400 per month, with \$10,200 prepaid to the property manager.
75. First Secretary's Lease - A short-term lease at 1752 S Street NW, Washington, D.C., runs May–Aug 2025 at \$148 daily (\$3,563 monthly), with one month prepaid and a \$290 cleaning fee.
76. Second Secretary's Lease - The Embassy leased 2216 40th Place NW, Washington, D.C., for Geoffrey Omondi (May–Aug 2025) at \$133 daily (\$2,926 prorated for May), plus a \$350 cleaning fee, utilities included.

#### **4.4 MEETING WITH THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

77. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the delegation met with Kendra L. Gaither, President of the US-Africa Business Center at the US Chamber of Commerce.
78. During deliberations between the delegation and Kendra L. Gaither, several key issues were highlighted with a strong focus on Kenya.
79. SMEs and Policy Support - The Chamber emphasized its role in linking businesses to opportunities in the U.S., with strong focus on SMEs. Kenya's vibrant SME sector could benefit from partnerships, capacity-building, and advocacy to improve competitiveness.
80. Sector-Specific Opportunities - Discussions highlighted coffee, tea, ICT, and textiles as sectors where Kenya has global advantage. Expanding market access under AGOA, integrating Kenyan ICT talent, and linking textiles to U.S. markets were identified as priority opportunities.

81. Energy and Innovation Platforms - The Chamber pointed to global energy and innovation forums as entry points for Kenya, including renewable resources and digital innovation. Kenya was encouraged to leverage platforms such as the planned AI village to showcase its tech ecosystem.
82. Congressional Engagement - The Chamber outlined its work with U.S. Congress on Africa policy. For Kenya, sustaining AGOA, advancing labour mobility, and deepening trade and investment ties were flagged as priorities, alongside raising awareness of Kenya's strategic regional role.

## 5.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

83. It was observed as follows:

### 5.1 The Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California

- 1) Tourism, entertainment, and creative industry opportunities - Los Angeles and the Pacific region are global hubs for media, entertainment, and tourism, yet Kenya's presence is limited. The Consulate has initiated contacts with film academies, production houses, and industry leaders, but follow-through and structured incentives remain lacking.
- 2) Diaspora engagement and untapped potential - The Kenyan diaspora in the Pacific region numbers about 27,700 (2020 Census), concentrated in California, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico, but the actual figure may be higher due to undocumented Kenyans. While diaspora forums exist, structured programs to harness investment, skills transfer, and cultural promotion are underdeveloped.
- 3) Consular services delivery and efficiency gains - The Consulate has improved efficiency through an appointment system and mobile outreach programs, serving over 2,000 passport applications and 800 ID requests in six states in 2023, generating \$36,916 in revenue. However, the overall output of 2024/25 remains modest relative to diaspora size.
- 4) Cultural diplomacy and sports promotion - Kenya has successfully used events such as the LA Rugby Sevens, LA Marathon, and cultural festivals to promote its image. With the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics ahead, there is a major opportunity to amplify Kenya's cultural and sporting presence.
- 5) Academic and Research partnerships - Several promising academic collaborations are in progress, such as Machakos University with California Polytechnic, CUEA with Charles R. Drew University, and University of Nairobi with UCLA. However, bureaucratic delays have slowed implementation in some cases.
- 6) Financial Sustainability and Revenue Generation - Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) collections have been inconsistent, with sharp declines during COVID-19 due to the shift to e-Citizen, but a rebound in 2022/23 and 2023/24 following Mobile Consular Services (MCS). However, foreign exchange losses and delayed disbursements continue to undermine spending capacity.
- 7) Operational Costs and Property Management - The Consulate incurs high recurrent rental costs for the chancery and the Consul-General's residence, despite the facilities being suitable. Proposals to purchase properties have not been acted upon.
- 8) Service Delivery and Staffing Efficiency - Centralized passport processing in Nairobi causes delays, staffing levels are limited, and occasional ICT system downtimes reduce efficiency. The Consulate has proposed decentralization, IT upgrades, and provision of a digital ID kit.
- 9) There was need to adopt the agency consular services model and roll it out across all states in the US in place of the mobile consular services (MCS), which had proven unsustainable both financially and operationally. Unlike the MCS framework, which relied on costly logistics, constant staff mobility, and temporary setups while offering inconsistent reach, the agency model provides a stable, predictable, and cost-efficient alternative. It involves outsourcing administrative aspects of passport processing to accredited agencies, while the three Kenyan missions in the US retain the critical role of validating applications and dispatching them to Nairobi for final processing. This model ensures continuity and reliability of consular services, reduces public expenditure, expands accessibility for citizens across the US, and enhances the credibility and effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic and service delivery architecture.

- 10) There is urgent need to invest in tourism promotion on the West Coast of the United States, a key hub for outbound international travel. While Indonesia attracts nearly 14 million tourists annually with strong promotional infrastructure in the US, Kenya receives about 2.8 million tourists yet has minimal presence in this critical market. Establishing a robust tourism promotion office on the West Coast would expand visibility, boost arrivals from a high-value source market, and strengthen Kenya's brand as a premier destination.
- 11) There was need to prioritize labour mobility to the United States with a strong focus on skilled professionals such as nurses, teachers, and IT specialists. These sectors face persistent shortages in the US and present significant opportunities for Kenya to position its highly trained workforce competitively. By investing in targeted training, certification alignment, and bilateral labour agreements, Kenya can expand employment opportunities abroad, increase remittance inflows, and strengthen its reputation as a reliable source of skilled human capital.
- 12) Targeted academic partnerships with US institutions are poised to open pathways for skilled labour mobility. For instance, the collaboration between the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on nursing training equips Kenyan nurses to meet international standards and access US employment opportunities. However, a planned partnership with Machakos University collapsed due to delays at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leading to a missed opportunity to advance Kenya's labour mobility agenda.
- 13) Immense economic potential of the Pacific Region - The western United States, particularly California, Silicon Valley, and Seattle, represents a hub for global trade, technology, and green innovation, yet Kenya's engagement remains limited.
- 14) Diaspora as a strategic asset - The Consulate's jurisdiction covers a growing Kenyan diaspora community across 13 states, but structured programs to harness their economic and professional potential remain underdeveloped.
- 15) Promising business linkages already initiated - Early efforts such as linking KNCCI with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, exploring cut flower exports, and promoting Kenyan brands like Tusker, tea, and coffee show Kenya's untapped potential in consumer and niche markets.

## **5.2 The Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC**

- 1) Opportunity in AGOA renewal and expanded trade relations - The Embassy has intensified advocacy for the renewal of AGOA ahead of its expiry in September 2025, recognizing its central role in sustaining Kenya's export competitiveness in the US market. However, Kenya's exports remain concentrated in raw commodities rather than diversified value-added products.
- 2) Strategic opportunities in education and innovation partnerships - The Embassy has facilitated linkages between Kenyan universities and U.S. institutions (e.g., Tom Mboya University with University of Tennessee, Egerton with Bowie State, and the Open University of Kenya with Howard). These partnerships hold potential for strengthening Kenya's innovation ecosystem but remain fragmented and under-coordinated.
- 3) Diaspora engagement as a driver of investment and remittances - The Kenyan diaspora in the U.S. contributes 56 percent of total remittances to Kenya, making them the single largest source of foreign inflows. While the Embassy has strengthened diaspora services and welfare programs, structured diaspora investment frameworks remain underdeveloped.
- 4) Staffing Gaps Undermining Service Delivery - The Embassy has an approved establishment of 34 staff but currently operates with 29, leaving critical vacancies, particularly in foreign service officers and consular assistants. These gaps strain service delivery given the Embassy's multiple accreditations and large diaspora population.

- 5) Financial and budgetary constraints limiting embassy operations - The Embassy faces chronic under-provision in its budget, compounded by foreign exchange losses, lack of development funds, and reduced AIA revenue due to the e-Citizen transition. These constraints limit its ability to deliver effectively on its mandate across six accredited countries.
- 6) Procurement rigidity hindering efficiency - Strict application of Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012 within the U.S. context has made procurement inefficient, with delays in acquiring essential services and items due to approval thresholds and non-alignment with U.S. market practices.
- 7) Limited diplomatic reach due to multiple accreditations - The Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to five additional countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua), yet geographical vastness and high demands in the U.S. prevent effective engagement with these nations.
- 8) Financial and budgetary constraints eroding operational effectiveness - The Embassy suffers from under-provision of funds for travel, maintenance, and national events, while foreign exchange fluctuations erode purchasing power. The shift to e-Citizen also reduced Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) revenues without compensatory exchequer support.
- 9) Procurement inefficiencies hindering service delivery - Current procurement rules under Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012 do not align with U.S. laws, leading to delays, high costs, and impractical procedures, especially where approvals above Kshs. 500,000 are required from Nairobi.
- 10) High rental costs despite government-owned properties - The Deputy Head of Mission is incurring unsustainable rent costs of Kshs. 1.74 million per month, despite Kenya owning several residential properties in Washington, D.C., which could be allocated by seniority to reduce expenditure.
- 11) Foreign Exchange and budgetary strain - Budget allocations in Kenya Shillings are undermined by U.S. dollar fluctuations, while inadequate funding for maintenance leaves owned properties vulnerable to deterioration.
- 12) Leveraging strategic trade opportunities through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Engagements with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified opportunities for Kenya in sectors such as coffee, tea, ICT, textiles, and renewable energy, yet structured follow-up mechanisms remain limited.
- 13) The current lease agreement for the Deputy Head of Mission at a monthly rent of \$13,500, which amounts to an annual expenditure of \$162,000 (approximately Ksh 21,060,000), is financially unsustainable and represents a significant drain on public funds. A more prudent and fiscally responsible strategy would be to utilize one of the government's state-owned properties in Washington D.C., such as those recently renovated on 29th and 32nd Streets, to house senior diplomatic staff. This approach would eliminate exorbitant rental costs for high-ranking officials, while allowing for more manageable rental arrangements for junior officers, thereby ensuring the efficient use of state assets and achieving substantial cost savings for the mission.
- 14) The renovation of Kenya House at 10201 Sorrel Avenue highlights a fragmented procurement strategy that led to significant cost overruns. The final project cost of nearly \$373,000 was more than double the initial contract of \$169,500. This increase was driven by awarding separate contracts and approving over \$63,000 in change orders and "unforeseen" extra repairs. This piecemeal approach ultimately inflated the final expense.
- 15) From the repairs at 4453 29th Street NW, the embassy incurred a significant financial loss due to poor contract management. The original \$40,215.00 contract price included the costly item of removing and replacing the entire carpet. When the contractor instead opted for the much cheaper alternative of polishing the existing wood floors, the contract price was curiously kept the same.

## **6.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

84. The Committee recommends as follows:

### **6.1 Broad Recommendations**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (in conjunction with relevant MDAs) should:
  - a) By December 2026, roll out the agency consular services model across all 50 U.S. states. Accredited agencies will handle administrative tasks while missions will validate and dispatch. It should aim to reduce costs by 40 percent and increase access by 60 percent in three years.
  - b) By 2027, decentralize passport processing to missions and equip them with a Digital ID kit, cutting turnaround time by 40 percent.
  - c) Introduce an appropriate foreign exchange buffer in mission budgets by 2026/27 FY to address foreign exchange losses.
  - d) Revise procurement thresholds for missions abroad by 2026, allowing independent procurement up to USD 50,000 while maintaining audit oversight.
  - e) Use PPPs to acquire new chancery/residential properties in high-cost locations (e.g., Los Angeles, Washington D.C.), cutting rent expenditure by 25 percent by 2028.

### **6.2 Specific Recommendations – Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California**

- 2) The Kenya Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California should:
  - a) Develop a five-year Kenya Creative Economy Promotion Strategy targeting Hollywood, negotiating at least two filming agreements by 2027 and rolling out a film incentives framework within 18 months. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA)
  - b) Scale up consular outreach by committing to at least four missions annually across the 13 western states, aiming to process 5,000 passports and 2,000 IDs by 2027. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA)
  - c) Launch a Kenya Olympics Cultural & Sports Promotion Plan (2025–2028), targeting participation in at least 10 cultural/sports events annually, securing five corporate sponsorships by 2027, and showcasing Kenyan culture at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA, Ministry of Sports & Culture)
  - d) Establish a Kenya–Pacific Academic Partnerships Desk by 2026 to formalize at least five MOUs by 2027, secure 100 scholarships/faculty exchanges by 2028, and initiate three joint research projects in health and agriculture by 2027 (in conjunction with the Commission for University Education).
  - e) In collaboration with KTB, establish a Kenya Tourism Promotion Office in California by mid-2027, targeting a 20 percent increase in U.S. arrivals by 2028.

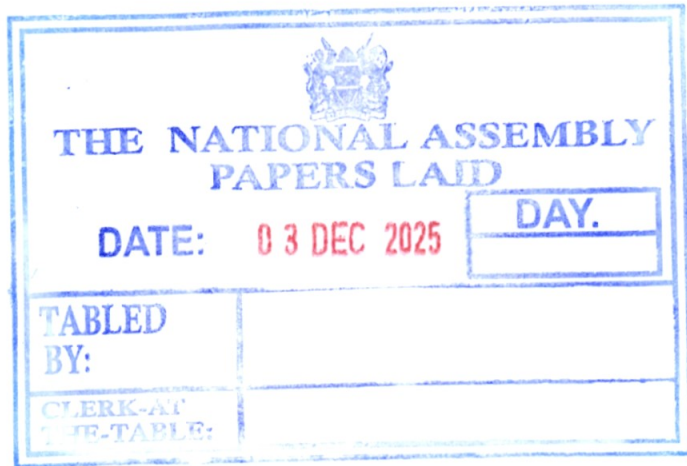
### **6.3 Specific Recommendations – Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC**

- 3) Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC (in conjunction with relevant MDAs) should:

- a) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Academic Partnerships Desk at the Embassy by 2026, consolidating all bilateral education links and ensuring at least five MOUs by 2027.
- b) Develop a Kenya–U.S. Export Diversification Roadmap (2025–2028), aiming to increase value-added exports by 25 percent by 2028, while securing AGOA renewal by September 2025.
- c) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Higher Education and Research Hub by 2026, targeting 10 MOUs by 2027 and 500 student/faculty exchanges by 2028 in STEM, health, and agriculture.
- d) Launch a Kenya Diaspora Investment Platform (KDIP) in Washington by 2026, mobilizing USD 500 million by 2028, with annual diaspora conferences starting in 2026.
- e) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Trade and Investment Working Group by 2026 to secure three sector-specific MoUs (coffee, ICT, textiles) by 2027 and mobilize USD 200 million in U.S. investments by 2028.
- f) Implement a seniority-based housing allocation policy by 2026, ensuring senior officers use government-owned properties, with a target of reducing rental costs by 50 percent within two years.
- g) Introduce (under guidance of the Ministry’s Internal Audit Department) mandatory mid-project reviews for all property renovations above USD 20,000 to enforce cost renegotiations if scope changes, ensuring value for money.

SIGNED:  DATE: 03/12/2025

**THE HON. FREDRICK IKANA, M.P.**  
**MEMBER, LEADER OF DELEGATION / MEMBER DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON**  
**DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**





REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION- 2025

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND  
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

REPORT ON:

AN INSPECTION VISIT TO THE KENYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES AND THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC) CONDUCTED FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025

We, Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations, have pursuant to Standing Order 199, adopted this Report and affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity today, **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025**

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P. (Chairperson)	
2.	The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.	
4.	The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.	
5.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, CBS, M.P.	
6.	The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.	
7.	The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P..	
8.	The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.	
9.	The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P.	
10.	The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.	
11.	The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.	
12.	The Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P.	
13.	The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.	
14.	The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.	
15.	The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.	



**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**13TH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION - 2025**  
**DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES**  
**DC - DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**MINUTES OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON TUESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2025, AT 10:00 A.M., IN COMMITTEE ROOM 26, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.**

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**PRESENT**

1. **The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.** - **Vice Chairperson**
2. The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, C.B.S, M.P.
3. The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, C.B.S, M.P.
4. The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.
5. The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P.
6. The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.
7. The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P.
8. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.
9. The Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P.
10. The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.
11. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

**APOLOGIES**

1. **The Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.** - **Chairperson**
2. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, CBS, M.P.
3. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary. M.P.
4. The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

- |                         |   |                           |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Dennis M. Ogechi | - | Clerk Assistant I         |
| 2. Mr. Bernard Njeru    | - | Clerk Assistant III       |
| 3. Mr. Martin Sigei     | - | Research Officer III      |
| 4. Ms. Noelle Chelangat | - | Media Relations Officer I |
| 5. Mr. Alex Amwata      | - | Hansard Officer II        |
| 6. Ms. Mirriam Magutt   | - | Intern                    |

**AGENDA**

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Communication from the Chair.
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting.
4. **Consideration and adoption of reports on:**

- a) A visit by the Departmental Committee on Defense, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates with the State Department for Diaspora Affairs and
- b) An inspection visit to the Kenyan Diplomatic Missions in the United States of America (the Consulate General in Los Angeles and the Embassy in Washington DC) conducted from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.

5. Any Other Business.

6. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting.

**MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/309/2025:**

**PLELIMINARIES**

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m., and prayer was said. The agenda above was unanimously adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.

**MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/310/2025:**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Confirmation of minutes of the previous sitting was deferred to a later date.

**MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/311/2025:**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairperson informed the Committee on the following:

- 1. A correspondence from the Director General of the National Intelligence Service requesting for rescheduling of the intended inspection visit by the Committee to the National Intelligence Service Hospital in Kitusuru to any date between 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. It was resolved that the activity be undertaken after resumption from the long recess which is scheduled to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 2. The Defence Cooperation Agreement between Kenya and France had been committed to the Committee for consideration with a view to approval for ratification. It was resolved that the Committee would handle it after the long recess that was scheduled to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

**MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/312/2025:**

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON A VISIT BY THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS TO ABU DHABI AND DUBAI IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

The Report on a visit by the Departmental Committee on Defense, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates with the State Department for Diaspora affairs adopted The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P. and seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P., M.P.

It was adopted with the following observation and recommendations:

**OBSERVATIONS**

- a) There was a significant diaspora presence and economic contribution since Kenya signed the initial bilateral agreement with the UAE, which saw many Kenyans get job opportunities in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. With proper management, this sector has the potential to grow, injecting a significant amount of revenue into the economy. Kenya boasts a median age of 19 years. While this presents a challenge to the country on employment opportunities, it is also an opportunity to export skills

and knowledge to countries with an ageing population, like Germany and Japan.

- b) While the government has made tremendous progress in weeding out rogue recruitment agencies and providing a regulatory framework that governs their operations, a new challenge exists of fake recruitment agencies that operate outside the regulatory framework. They still defraud unsuspecting and ignorant Kenyans by promising them non-existent jobs, or promise them white collar jobs, only to land them as domestic workers. Many Kenyans are tricked into travelling on Visitor Visas with no actual job offers—often due to rogue agents using fake documents. Fake work permits are issued, leaving migrants jobless or stuck in "kaliwali" (low-paying) jobs upon landing in the UAE. The UAE labour laws provide that for one to be employed, they must possess an employment letter, a signed employment contract, a work permit, and an employment visa.
- c) There is a serious need for safe houses to temporarily provide a haven for Kenyans living in the UAE. Compared to neighbouring destination countries, the UAE records fewer cases of distress calls, but the numbers have been growing, majority of them being women. The Embassy has been forced on several occasions to host most Kenyans in distress at the Mission, which interferes with other operations. These houses can be used to house Kenyans who end up in the UAE at the hands of fake recruitment agents and with no work to do. Some Kenyans, upon differing with their employers, end up on the streets. This safe house could provide a temporary haven as the distressed look for another job or arrange to travel back home.
- d) Fraudulent and dubious investment schemes in Kenya. Many Kenyans would like to make investments back home and actually do, only for their investments to land in the hands of conmen and cowwomen. Some end up losing their investments to relatives and friends whom they trust to invest on their behalf.
- e) There still existed inordinate delays and challenges for Kenyans living in Abu Dhabi in processing or renewing their passports and other documents. They have to travel to Dubai for those services, which is time-consuming and costly. Plans were in place to ensure officials are sent to Abu Dhabi at least twice a month to process the official documents for Kenyans residing in Abu Dhabi.
- f) There exist wage disparities between the Kenyan migrant workers and those of other countries doing the same work. For example, the salary for a Kenyan domestic worker in Abu Dhabi is 50 per cent less than a domestic worker from the Philippines. This was attributed to strong bilateral agreements that exist between the UAE and countries such as the Philippines. The agreements outline what should constitute the minimum wage to the advantage of their citizenry.
- g) The Committee observed a serious information gap. Most Kenyans were uninformed about the procedures and documentation required to land jobs in the UAE. Rogue and fake recruitment agents and conmen have continuously used these gaps to defraud Kenyans and even land some in the UAE using fake documents.
- h) Recruitment agencies continue to charge very high commissions, which inflate the cost of migration. These high costs reduce the gains the country is making in sending as many young Kenyans to the diaspora. Sometimes, the young job seekers are asked to deposit a Title Deed or Logbook, which realistically, they cannot have.
- i) While the Committee undertook the visit on an invitation from the State Department of Diaspora Affairs, the State Department officials excluded the Hon. Members from most of the engagements with the stakeholders, both in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. In a meeting with victims of the fire in Dubai that saw Kenyans lose their lives while others got injured, Members were kept at the reception at the Kenyan Consulate in Dubai waiting for over 30 minutes. All this while, the receptionist kept informing Hon. Members that the Principal Secretary was holding a meeting with those victims and would see them once her meeting was over. No single consulate official or official from the State showed the courtesy to either receive the Hon. Members or let them in the meeting, despite having informed Hon. Members to attend the meeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Committee recommended that the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with relevant MDAs, should:
  - a) Ensure that bilateral agreements/MOUs between Kenya and key destination countries conform to International Labour Standards. Issues such as working conditions and the minimum wage bill must be captured in those agreements to safeguard migrant workers from exploitation by their employers.
  - b) Aggressively engagement with other foreign governments that require skilled manpower to ensure that opportunities for employment for Kenyans are created overseas. All pending BLAs should be given priority.
  - c) Undertake wide sensitization and public awareness on labour migration to the masses through roadshows, media campaigns, the people's representatives, among others. The masses need to be informed not only about the available opportunities overseas but also the processes involved, the bodies involved, and the duration involved to avoid being duped by rogue or fake recruitment agencies.
  - d) Ensure that all employment documents are attested by the Kenyan Embassy in the UAE before submission for action in Kenya. This will ensure that Kenyans do not land in the UAE for non-existent jobs and reduce distress calls.
  - e) Accelerate the dissemination of information to the Kenyans in diaspora about more structured and safe avenues of investment within the country. This is to safeguard the diaspora investors from conmen and unreliable relatives. The government institutions that provide avenues for investment, like the CBK, should make it easy to invest for Kenyans in the diaspora without having to use middlemen such as relatives within the country.

### MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/313/2025:

### CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT TO THE KENYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES AND THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC) CONDUCTED FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025)

The Report on an Inspection Visit to the Kenyan Diplomatic Missions in The United States of America (The Consulate General in Los Angeles and The Embassy in Washington Dc) was adopted having been proposed by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P., and seconded by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

It was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

#### OBSERVATIONS

It was observed that:

## 1. The Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California

- a) Tourism, entertainment, and creative industry opportunities - Los Angeles and the Pacific region are global hubs for media, entertainment, and tourism, yet Kenya's presence is limited. The Consulate has initiated contacts with film academies, production houses, and industry leaders, but follow-through and structured incentives remain lacking.
- b) Diaspora engagement and untapped potential - The Kenyan diaspora in the Pacific region numbers about 27,700 (2020 Census), concentrated in California, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico, but the actual figure may be higher due to undocumented Kenyans. While diaspora forums exist, structured programs to harness investment, skills transfer, and cultural promotion are underdeveloped.
- c) Consular services delivery and efficiency gains - The Consulate has improved efficiency through an appointment system and mobile outreach programs, serving over 2,000 passport applications and 800 ID requests in six states in 2023, generating \$36,916 in revenue. However, the overall output of 2024/25 remains modest relative to diaspora size.
- d) Cultural diplomacy and sports promotion - Kenya has successfully used events such as the LA Rugby Sevens, LA Marathon, and cultural festivals to promote its image. With the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics ahead, there is a major opportunity to amplify Kenya's cultural and sporting presence.
- e) Academic and Research partnerships - Several promising academic collaborations are in progress, such as Machakos University with California Polytechnic, CUEA with Charles R. Drew University, and University of Nairobi with UCLA. However, bureaucratic delays have slowed implementation in some cases.
- f) Financial Sustainability and Revenue Generation - Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) collections have been inconsistent, with sharp declines during COVID-19 due to the shift to e-Citizen, but a rebound in 2022/23 and 2023/24 following Mobile Consular Services (MCS). However, foreign exchange losses and delayed disbursements continue to undermine spending capacity.
- g) Operational Costs and Property Management - The Consulate incurs high recurrent rental costs for the chancery and the Consul-General's residence, despite the facilities being suitable. Proposals to purchase properties have not been acted upon.
- h) Service Delivery and Staffing Efficiency - Centralized passport processing in Nairobi causes delays, staffing levels are limited, and occasional ICT system downtimes reduce efficiency. The Consulate has proposed decentralization, IT upgrades, and provision of a digital ID kit.
- i) There was need to adopt the agency consular services model and roll it out across all states in the US in place of the mobile consular services (MCS), which had proven unsustainable both financially and operationally. Unlike the MCS framework, which relied on costly logistics, constant staff mobility, and temporary setups while offering inconsistent reach, the agency model provides a stable, predictable, and cost-efficient alternative. It involves outsourcing administrative aspects of passport processing to accredited agencies, while the three Kenyan missions in the US retain the critical role of validating applications and dispatching them to Nairobi for final processing. This model ensures continuity and reliability of consular services, reduces public expenditure, expands accessibility for citizens across the US, and enhances the credibility and effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic and service delivery architecture.

- j) There is urgent need to invest in tourism promotion on the West Coast of the United States, a key hub for outbound international travel. While Indonesia attracts nearly 14 million tourists annually with strong promotional infrastructure in the US, Kenya receives about 2.8 million tourists yet has minimal presence in this critical market. Establishing a robust tourism promotion office on the West Coast would expand visibility, boost arrivals from a high-value source market, and strengthen Kenya's brand as a premier destination.
- k) There was need to prioritize labour mobility to the United States with a strong focus on skilled professionals such as nurses, teachers, and IT specialists. These sectors face persistent shortages in the US and present significant opportunities for Kenya to position its highly trained workforce competitively. By investing in targeted training, certification alignment, and bilateral labour agreements, Kenya can expand employment opportunities abroad, increase remittance inflows, and strengthen its reputation as a reliable source of skilled human capital.
- l) Targeted academic partnerships with US institutions are poised to open pathways for skilled labour mobility. For instance, the collaboration between the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on nursing training equips Kenyan nurses to meet international standards and access US employment opportunities. However, a planned partnership with Machakos University collapsed due to delays at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leading to a missed opportunity to advance Kenya's labour mobility agenda.
- m) Immense economic potential of the Pacific Region - The Western United States, particularly California, Silicon Valley, and Seattle, represents a hub for global trade, technology, and green innovation, yet Kenya's engagement remains limited.
- n) Diaspora as a strategic asset - The Consulate's jurisdiction covers a growing Kenyan diaspora community across 13 states, but structured programs to harness their economic and professional potential remain underdeveloped.
- o) Promising business linkages already initiated - Early efforts such as linking KNCCI with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, exploring cut flower exports, and promoting Kenyan brands like Tusker, tea, and coffee show Kenya's untapped potential in consumer and niche markets.

## 2. The Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC

- a) Opportunity in AGOA renewal and expanded trade relations - The Embassy has intensified advocacy for the renewal of AGOA ahead of its expiry in September 2025, recognizing its central role in sustaining Kenya's export competitiveness in the US market. However, Kenya's exports remain concentrated in raw commodities rather than diversified value-added products.
- b) Strategic opportunities in education and innovation partnerships - The Embassy has facilitated linkages between Kenyan universities and U.S. institutions (e.g., Tom Mboya University with University of Tennessee, Egerton with Bowie State, and the Open University of Kenya with Howard). These partnerships hold potential for strengthening Kenya's innovation ecosystem but remain fragmented and under-coordinated.
- c) Diaspora engagement as a driver of investment and remittances - The Kenyan diaspora in the U.S. contributes 56 percent of total remittances to Kenya, making them the single largest

- source of foreign inflows. While the Embassy has strengthened diaspora services and welfare programs, structured diaspora investment frameworks remain underdeveloped.
- d) Staffing Gaps Undermining Service Delivery - The Embassy has an approved establishment of 34 staff but currently operates with 29, leaving critical vacancies, particularly in foreign service officers and consular assistants. These gaps strain service delivery given the Embassy's multiple accreditations and large diaspora population.
  - e) Financial and budgetary constraints limiting embassy operations - The Embassy faces chronic under-provision in its budget, compounded by foreign exchange losses, lack of development funds, and reduced AIA revenue due to the e-Citizen transition. These constraints limit its ability to deliver effectively on its mandate across six accredited countries.
  - f) Procurement rigidity hindering efficiency - Strict application of Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012 within the U.S. context has made procurement inefficient, with delays in acquiring essential services and items due to approval thresholds and non-alignment with U.S. market practices.
  - g) Limited diplomatic reach due to multiple accreditations - The Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to five additional countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua), yet geographical vastness and high demands in the U.S. prevent effective engagement with these nations.
  - h) Financial and budgetary constraints eroding operational effectiveness - The Embassy suffers from under-provision of funds for travel, maintenance, and national events, while foreign exchange fluctuations erode purchasing power. The shift to e-Citizen also reduced Appropriation-in-Aid (AIA) revenues without compensatory exchequer support.
  - i) Procurement inefficiencies hindering service delivery - Current procurement rules under Kenya's Public Finance Management Act, 2012 do not align with U.S. laws, leading to delays, high costs, and impractical procedures, especially where approvals above Kshs. 500,000 are required from Nairobi.
  - j) High rental costs despite government-owned properties - The Deputy Head of Mission is incurring unsustainable rent costs of Kshs. 1.74 million per month, despite Kenya owning several residential properties in Washington, D.C., which could be allocated by seniority to reduce expenditure.
  - k) Foreign Exchange and budgetary strain - Budget allocations in Kenya Shillings are undermined by U.S. dollar fluctuations, while inadequate funding for maintenance leaves owned properties vulnerable to deterioration.
  - l) Leveraging strategic trade opportunities through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Engagements with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified opportunities for Kenya in sectors such as coffee, tea, ICT, textiles, and renewable energy, yet structured follow-up mechanisms remain limited.
  - m) The current lease agreement for the Deputy Head of Mission at a monthly rent of \$13,500, which amounts to an annual expenditure of \$162,000 (approximately Ksh 21,060,000), is financially unsustainable and represents a significant drain on public funds. A more prudent and fiscally responsible strategy would be to utilize one of the government's state-owned properties in Washington D.C., such as those recently renovated on 29th and 32nd Streets, to house senior diplomatic staff. This approach would eliminate exorbitant rental costs for high-

ranking officials, while allowing for more manageable rental arrangements for junior officers, thereby ensuring the efficient use of state assets and achieving substantial cost savings for the mission.

- n) The renovation of Kenya House at 10201 Sorrel Avenue highlights a fragmented procurement strategy that led to significant cost overruns. The final project cost of nearly \$373,000 was more than double the initial contract of \$169,500. This increase was driven by awarding separate contracts and approving over \$63,000 in change orders and "unforeseen" extra repairs. This piecemeal approach ultimately inflated the final expense.
- o) From the repairs at 4453 29th Street NW, the embassy incurred a significant financial loss due to poor contract management. The original \$40,215.00 contract price included the costly item of removing and replacing the entire carpet. When the contractor instead opted for the much cheaper alternative of polishing the existing wood floors, the contract price was curiously kept the same.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommended that:

### **General Recommendations**

- 1. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (in conjunction with relevant MDAs) should:
  - a) By December 2026, roll out the agency consular services model across all 50 U.S. states. Accredited agencies will handle administrative tasks while missions will validate and dispatch. It should aim to reduce costs by 40 percent and increase access by 60 percent in three years.
  - b) By 2027, decentralize passport processing to missions and equip them with a Digital ID kit, cutting turnaround time by 40 percent.
  - c) Introduce an appropriate foreign exchange buffer in mission budgets by 2026/27 FY to address foreign exchange losses.
  - d) Revise procurement thresholds for missions abroad by 2026, allowing independent procurement up to USD 50,000 while maintaining audit oversight.
  - e) Use PPPs to acquire new chancery/residential properties in high-cost locations (e.g., Los Angeles, Washington D.C.), cutting rent expenditure by 25 percent by 2028.

### **Specific Recommendations – Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California**

- 2. Consulate-General in Los Angeles, California should:
  - a) Develop a five-year Kenya Creative Economy Promotion Strategy targeting Hollywood, negotiating at least two filming agreements by 2027 and rolling out a film incentives framework within 18 months. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA)
  - b) Scale up consular outreach by committing to at least four missions annually across the 13 western states, aiming to process 5,000 passports and 2,000 IDs by 2027. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA)

- c) Launch a Kenya Olympics Cultural & Sports Promotion Plan (2025–2028), targeting participation in at least 10 cultural/sports events annually, securing five corporate sponsorships by 2027, and showcasing Kenyan culture at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. (Consulate Los Angeles, MFA, Ministry of Sports & Culture)
- d) Establish a Kenya–Pacific Academic Partnerships Desk by 2026 to formalize at least five MOUs by 2027, secure 100 scholarships/faculty exchanges by 2028, and initiate three joint research projects in health and agriculture by 2027 (in conjunction with the Commission for University Education).
- e) In collaboration with KTB, establish a Kenya Tourism Promotion Office in California by mid-2027, targeting a 20 percent increase in U.S. arrivals by 2028.

**Specific Recommendations – Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC**

3. Kenyan Embassy in Washington DC (in conjunction with relevant MDAs) should:
- a) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Academic Partnerships Desk at the Embassy by 2026, consolidating all bilateral education links and ensuring at least five MOUs by 2027.
  - b) Develop a Kenya–U.S. Export Diversification Roadmap (2025–2028), aiming to increase value-added exports by 25 percent by 2028, while securing AGOA renewal by September 2025.
  - c) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Higher Education and Research Hub by 2026, targeting 10 MOUs by 2027 and 500 student/faculty exchanges by 2028 in STEM, health, and agriculture.
  - d) Launch a Kenya Diaspora Investment Platform (KDIP) in Washington by 2026, mobilizing USD 500 million by 2028, with annual diaspora conferences starting in 2026.
  - e) Establish a Kenya–U.S. Trade and Investment Working Group by 2026 to secure three sector specific MoUs (coffee, ICT, textiles) by 2027 and mobilize USD 200 million in U.S. investments by 2028.
  - f) Implement a seniority-based housing allocation policy by 2026, ensuring senior officers use government-owned properties, with a target of reducing rental costs by 50 percent within two years.
  - g) Introduce (under guidance of the Ministry’s Internal Audit Department) mandatory mid-project reviews for all property renovations above USD 20,000 to enforce cost renegotiations if scope changes, ensuring value for money.

MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/314/2025

**ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting will be held on notice.

SIGNED: .....

DATE: 03/12/2025

**THE HON. NELSON KOECH, CBS, M.P.  
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE  
AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.**