


**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
 PAPERS LAID**

DATE: 01 APR 2025 **DAY:** Tuesday

TABLED BY:	Vice-chair person, Committee on Defence, Intelligence & Foreign Relations Hon. Abdullahi Bashir, MP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Gebrede

*Approved
 SNA
 18/3/25*



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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION (2025)
 DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN
 RELATIONS**

**REPORT ON:
 THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE (MCS)
 EXERCISE IN TEXAS FROM 4TH TO 7TH APRIL, 2024**

**CLERK'S CHAMBERS
 DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI**

MARCH, 2025



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LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD

The report documents the participation of a delegation from the Committee in the Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Exercise in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024. The participation in the activity aimed to assess how the MCS Exercise was being conducted and the challenges faced that would inform recommendations for future improvements.

Participation in the MCS Exercise was conducted in Sugars Restaurant, Missouri City between 4th and 7th April, 2024. The consular services availed for the Kenyan Diaspora Community in Houston, Texas were: Passport application and renewals; National Identification card registration; Document Attestation; Birth Certificate Registration; declaration of dual citizenship; Emergency Certificate and Regaining of Kenyan Citizenship.

Having participated in the MCS Exercise in Houston, Texas, the delegation made the following recommendations:

1. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs should ensure that budgeting, funding, and staffing for MCS activities are always finalized before the execution of an activity to avoid facilitation challenges.
2. The National Treasury should:
 - a) Resolve the payment limitations on the E-Citizen platform regarding the ability to use debit and credit cards;
 - b) Ensure prompt and responsive 24-hour customer service support for the E-Citizen platform; and
 - c) Upgrade the e-citizen platform to enable Kenyans to apply for different services from across the globe.
7. The National Registration Bureau to provide digital fingerprint capture systems for Identity Card applications for accuracy and efficiency.
8. The government to reassess the user journey on the E- Citizen platform, particularly in the registration process for passports and IDs to avoid experiencing difficulties in uploading documents, paying and downloading the documents needed for passport application.
9. Pursuant to Standing Order (S.O) 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its participation in the MCS Exercise in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024.

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP.

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

1. This report details the involvement of a delegation from the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations in the Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Activity held in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024.
2. Participation in the MCS Activity enabled the Committee to discharge its oversight responsibilities concerning the utilisation of resources allocated to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs. Furthermore, it afforded valuable insights into the challenges encountered during the activity, thereby informing the Committee's recommendations for future improvements.

1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

3. The Departmental Committee on Defence Intelligence and Foreign Relations is one of the Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under Standing Order 216 whose mandates, pursuant to the Standing Order 216 (5) includes, among others, *to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments.*

1.3 Committee Subjects

4. The subject matter of the Committee is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes, among others, *foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, and international relations.*
5. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):
 - a) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;
 - b) The Ministry of Defence;
 - c) The State Department for East African Community Affairs (EAC); and
 - d) The National Intelligence Service (NIS).

1.4 Committee Membership

6. The Committee was constituted by the House on 27th October 2022 and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P.

Belgut Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

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

Mandera North Constituency

UDM Party

Members

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P.

Gilgil Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Joshua Kandie, M.P.

Baringo Central Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, M.P.

Kamkunji Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.

Kinangop Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, M.P.

Suba North Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.

Sabatia Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.

Kajiado Central Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

Shinyalu Constituency

ANC Party

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP

Kitui County

WDM-K

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, M.P.

Lagdera Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.

Imenti Central Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P.

Nominated Member

UDA Party

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.

Saboti Constituency

ODM Party

1.5 Committee Secretariat

7. The Committee Secretariat comprises the following technical staff:

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

Mr. Lenny Muchangi
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Bernard Njeru
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Salat Ali
Principal Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Edwin Machuki
Fiscal Analyst III

Ms. Noelle Chelagat
Media Relations Officer I

Mr. John Ng'ang'a
Audio Recording Officer

Mr. Daniel Ominde
Research Officer III

1.6 Delegation

8. The delegation that visited comprised of:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| a) Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P. | - | Leader of Delegation |
| b) Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni | - | Member |
| c) Mr. Bernard Njeru | - | Delegation Secretary |

1.7 Acknowledgement

9. The Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. Further, the Committee appreciates the State Department for Diaspora Affairs for coordinating the participation of the delegation in the MCS exercise.

10. Pursuant to Standing Order 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the Participation in the Diaspora Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Exercise in Texas from 4th to 7th April, 2024.

2.0 MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICES- USA, HOUSTON, TEXAS

2.1 Background Information

11. Access to Government Services is a constitutional right for every Kenyan citizen. However, Kenyan citizens residing abroad, referred to as the Kenyan Diaspora, frequently encounter challenges in accessing essential government services, such as obtaining critical documentation, including National Identity Cards and Passports. National Identity Cards are particularly required by second-generation immigrants over the age of 18, while Passports are primarily needed by first-generation immigrants and undocumented Kenyans who need to replace their previous passports.
12. The Government has previously endeavoured to provide services to the Kenyan Diaspora through missions, but challenges have arisen regarding access to the central registry and technological issues with the e-citizen platform. Consequently, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) has initiated a programme to offer Mobile Consular Services (MCS) to the Kenyan Diaspora. This initiative follows a Presidential Directive issued by President Hon. Dr. William Ruto in December 2022, which mandates the relevant Ministries to address the needs of the Kenyan Diaspora and acknowledge their significance to the Kenyan economy.
13. In this regard, the State Department has commenced the Third Phase of Mobile Consular Services (MCS) in the United States of America (USA) to provide Kenyans living abroad with essential consular services.
14. The essential services offered included:
 - a) application and renewal of passports;
 - b) application and replacement of National Identity Cards (IDs);
 - c) application of birth certificates;
 - d) regaining and declaration of dual citizenship;
 - e) issuance of Emergency travel documents; and
 - f) document attestation.
15. Phase III of the MCS activity by the SDDA targeted three states in the United States of America which include: Massachusetts, Boston; Texas, Houston; and Washington, Seattle.

Summary of Number of Services Offered During MCS Phase III in the United States of America

	Passport	ID	Emergency Certificate	Attestation of documents	Declaration of Dual Citizenship	Regaining Kenyan Citizenship	Birth Certificate	Total Number of services
Massachusetts, Boston	459	361	0	0	11	4	9	844
Texas, Houston	400	230	0	0	16	4	11	661
Washington, Seattle	356	237	3	1	3	1	9	609
Total	1215	828	3	1	30	6	29	2112

2.2 Mobile Consular Service Activity in the United States of America

16. The activity was conducted in the three States as follows:

2.2.1 Massachusetts, Boston (30th March – 2nd April 2024)

17. As shown in the table above, a total of 844 services were provided in Boston, including the issuance of 459 passports, 361 identification cards, 11 declarations of dual citizenship, 4 regaining of Kenyan citizenship, and 9 birth certificates. This activity took place at the Holiday Inn Express, 8 Independence Dr, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

2.2.2 Texas, Houston (4th – 7th April 2024)

18. As shown in the table above, a total of 661 services were provided in Houston, which included the issuance of 400 passports, 230 identification cards, 16 declarations of dual citizenship, 4 instances of regaining Kenyan citizenship, and 11 birth certificates. This activity was conducted at Sugar's Restaurant, 3424 FM 1092, Missouri City, TX 77459.

Mobile Consular Services Exercise at Houston, Missouri City



(Top left) Kenyans waiting to get services from MCS team at Sugar's Restaurant, 3424 FM 1092, Missouri City, TX 77459, (bottom left) MCS Houston Team headed by Ms. Irene Karari, Ag. Director, Skills and Expertise Division-MFA (second right) brief Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP Saboti on the Services offered by the MCS team, (top right) Hon.(Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P Kitui County and Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP have a light moment with Kenyans in Houston, Missouri city sugars restaurant where the mcs 2024, exercise is taking place. (Bottom right) Hon.(Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P and Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP representing the Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on oversight mandate in Texas, Houston, one of the three States in the USA where MCS exercise is being conducted in March and April, 2024.

2.2.3 Washington, Seattle (9th – 12th April 2024)

19. As shown in the table above, a total of 609 services were provided in Seattle, comprising 356 passports, 237 identification cards, 3 emergency travel certificates, 1 document attestation, 3 declarations of dual citizenship, 1 instance of regaining Kenyan citizenship, and 9 birth certificates.

3.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

20. The Committee observed the following:

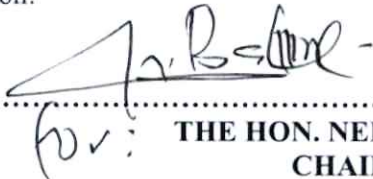
- 1) During the exercise the E-Citizen portal encountered challenges causing inconveniences;
 - a) The E-citizen portal requires individuals to have a Kenyan phone number to enable them to log in. Many Kenyan Diaspora members do not have a Kenyan phone number, making it impossible for them to log in.
 - b) The E-Citizen portal experienced software bugs. The issue affected users who had registered on the platform using their email addresses, as they were unable to receive the One Time Password (OTP) necessary to access, pay, and download the documentation required for passport applications.
 - c) Difficulties in uploading documents on the requisite portals.
- 2) Passports and National identification cards were the most sought-after documents.
- 3) Volunteers' inconsistent availability led to planning gaps and required the MCS team and Embassy staff to work late due to the Kenyan Diaspora's significant turnout.
- 4) A large majority of the Kenyan diaspora did not receive enough information about the requirements for registering for consular services. Additionally, many were unaware of the availability of the Mobile Consular Services programme.
- 5) The National Registration Bureau was still using manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID card applications which is old-fashioned.
- 6) There was inadequate facilitation of volunteers.
- 7) Many Kenyans arrived at the MCS exercise unprepared, failing to fill out the necessary forms and bring copies of their documents. This caused delays and prevented some individuals from accessing the services they required.
- 8) The Kenyan Diaspora expressed concerns regarding data privacy, particularly concerning the use of email addresses and phone numbers required for e-citizen accounts. Some individuals requested the deletion of their photographs, which impeded data collection efforts and reflected a lack of trust in government-led initiatives.
- 9) Limited digital literacy among a specific group of Kenyans resulted in their inability to apply for passports online, necessitating assistance from the on-the-ground team.

4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

21. The Committee recommends the following:

- 1) The State Department should ensure that:
 - a) Kenyan Mission in the USA is properly involved from the inception stage of the execution of the program.
 - b) There is deployment of more officers from the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to cater for the large number of Kenyans who turn up for the services in future.
 - c) There is thorough sensitization for Kenyans on how to fill out E-Citizen forms online, the MCS dates, and venues to avoid unnecessary inconveniences and delays.
 - d) There is availability of adequate funds before commencement of the outreach programme since financing of the MCS exercise is a key determinant of its success.
 - e) Adequate facilitation of the MCS team and volunteers with relevant requirements including live fingerprint capture for Identity Card applications for accuracy and speedy service delivery, branded t-shirts and caps for easier identification.
 - f) There is prior preparation of the MCS exercise Stations with clearly labeled workstations.
 - g) There is enhancement of the E-Citizen platform (in conjunction with other stakeholders in the executive) to make it more user-friendly for the diaspora community in terms of payments and uploading required documents.
- 2) The Diaspora Community should create a requisition register before the MCS exercise. This will help the implementation team to plan and allocate resources based on reliable information.

SIGNED:



DATE:

14/3/2025

for: THE HON. NELSON KOECH, MP
CHAIRPERSON


DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN
RELATION

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

Annexure I: Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered and adopted the Report

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 APR 2025	DAY.
TABLED BY:	
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION-2024

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR
SERVICE (MCS) IN TEXAS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM 4TH TO 7TH
APRIL, 2024.

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, **Thursday 14th NOVEMBER, 2024.**

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

August 8

Annexure 2: Minutes of the Committee



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

**MINUTES OF THE 11TH SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON THURSDAY
27TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 10.00 A.M IN BUNGE TOWER, 2ND FLOOR, COMMITTEE
ROOM 14, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

1. **The Hon. Koech Nelson, C.B.S, M.P.** - Chairperson
2. **The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, M.P.**
3. **The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.**
4. **The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.**
5. **The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P.**
6. **The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.**
7. **The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.**

IN ATTENDANCE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Dennis M. Ogechi | - | Clerk Assistant I |
| 2. Mr. Bernard Njeru | - | Clerk Assistant III |
| 3. Mr. John Ng'ang'a | - | Audio Officer II |
| 4. Ms. Noelle Chelagat | - | Media Relations Officer II |
| 5. Mr. Daniel Ominde | - | Research Officer III |
| 6. Mr. Abdi Salat | - | Principal Serjeant-At-Arms |
| 7. Mr. Edwin Machuki | - | Fiscal Analyst III |
| 8. Mr. Lenny Muchangi | - | Legal Counsel II |

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 9. Mr. Martin Sigei | - | Research Officer III |
| 10. Mr. Steve Jeremy Kamau | - | Intern |
| 11. Mr. Ian Kasawa Opicho | - | Pupil Directorate of Legal Services |
| 12. Ms. Grace K. Gijo | - | Pupil Directorate of Legal Services |

AGENDA

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda
2. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
3. Meeting with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) on the inquiry into the Conduct of the British Army Training Unit Kenya, and
4. Consideration and adoption of reports on:
 - a) 2025 Budget policy statement (BPS),
 - b) Budget Implementation Oversight (BIO) for the 2023/2024 Financial Year,
 - c) Treaty establishing the Intergovernmental Development Authority (IGAD),
 - d) Treaty-Making and Ratification (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Hon.Peter Kaluma, CBS, MP, and
 - e) An inspection visit conducted to diplomatic missions in Qatar and UAE.
5. Any Other Business
6. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/051/2025:

PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. and a prayer was said. The agenda above was unanimously adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, C.B.S, M.P.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/052/2025:

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR.

The Chairperson informed the Members of:

1. An invitation by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs into the launch of Diaspora Policy in Radisson Blue Hotel Upper Hill on Wednesday, 5th March 2025.

RESOLUTION

The Chairperson to request permission to sit during plenary sitting hours from the Speaker of the National Assembly in order to attend the launch.

2. Kenyans in Diaspora Technical Working group which was seeking audience with the Committee between 10th and 14th March 2025.

RESOLUTION

The Committee noted an upsurge of organizations by Kenyans living in Diaspora seeking audience with various parliamentary committees and resolved that in future, the matter be handled through the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

3. A scheduled visit by the Danish Foreign Affairs Committee from 3rd to 8th March 2025. The Delegation would like to meet with the Committee on March 4th 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

RESOLUTION

It was resolved that the visiting Danish MPs be given audience on the said time and date and Members were urged to avail themselves for the meeting.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/053/2025:

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SITTINGS.

Confirmation of Minutes of previous Sittings was deferred to a later date.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/054/2025:

MEETING WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AUTHORITY (NTSA) ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT KENYA.

The Clerk informed the Committee that the Director General of NTSA was engaged in an official activity in Naivasha and, therefore, was unable to appear before the Committee to make his submissions. He further noted that due to the urgency in concluding the matter, he had advised the Director General to provide written submissions instead of appearing before the Committee.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/055/2025:

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REPORTS:

A. REPORT ON 2025 BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT.

The Committee, having considered the report, adopted it having been proposed by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P and seconded by Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P. It was adopted with the following recommendations:

1. Non-Financial Recommendations

- a) To maintain high-quality engagement with the diaspora amidst limited resources, the SDDA should, within the next 12 months, collaborate with the SDFA to utilize already posted staff in missions (e.g., Migration Attachés) to take on additional responsibilities related to diaspora affairs. This maximizes the utility of current staff without incurring extra costs associated with deploying new officers.
- b) Within the next 12 months, the SDFA to leverage the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to acquire, renovate, and maintain mission properties abroad. This initiative will lessen GoK exchequer's reliance.
- c) The SDFA to restructure its foreign service by consolidating or closing economically unsustainable and underperforming missions and reallocating resources to prioritize funding for key missions within 12 months. The objective of this initiative is to optimize the utilization of available resources and improve efficiency.
- d) The SDFA prioritizes the appointment of Honorary Consuls in critical regions instead of establishing full-fledged diplomatic missions. This strategy will enable the SDFA to optimize the use of limited resources while also maintaining a robust foreign presence without incurring substantial financial costs associated with full-scale missions.

- e) The SDDA to provide protection, necessary documentations and evacuation of Kenyans in distress on a case-by-case basis rather than establishing of safe houses which might not be tenable.
- f) The Ministry of Defence (MoD) to submit a comprehensive report to the committee by April 30th, 2025 detailing the next phase of its modernization programme. The report to include:
 - a) Breakdown of planned modernization in personnel, equipment, and systems.
 - b) A detailed resourcing plan, including budgetary allocations and funding sources.
 - c) Progress report on the achievements of the ongoing modernization phase.
- g) The State Department for Foreign Affairs (SDFA) to submit a comprehensive evaluation report by April 30th, 2025 on the efficacy and performance of Kenya's 65 diplomatic missions. This report should provide:
 - a) A mission-by-mission assessment of operational efficiency and financial sustainability.
 - b) An analysis of each mission's strategic contribution to Kenya's foreign policy and economic interests.

2. Financial Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the ceilings for all the programmes for Vote 1041: MoD; Vote 1052: SDFA; Vote 1053: SDDA; Vote 1221: SDEAC; and Vote 1281: NIS be approved as tabled (see the table below).

DC-DIFR MDAs BPS 2025 Ceilings as Tabled (KES. Million)

Vote, Programme Code & Title	Recurrent	Capital	Total
1041: Ministry of Defence (MoD)	192,111.10	12,516.00	204,627.10
Defence	180,231.90	12,316.00	192,547.90
Civil Aid	335.00	-	335.00
General Administration Planning and Support Services	2,641.90	-	2,641.90
National Space Management	-	-	-
Programme 4: Defence Industrialization	8,902.30	200.00	9,102.30
1053: State Department for Foreign Affairs (SDFA)	20,811.60	2,346.40	23,158.00
General Administration Planning and Support Services	2,814.10	238.10	3,052.20
Foreign Relation and Diplomacy	17,798.00	1,948.30	19,746.30
Economic and Commercial Diplomacy	49.50	-	49.50
Foreign Policy Research, Capacity Dev and Technical Cooperation	150.00	160.00	310.00
1054: State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA)	675.90	-	675.90
Management of Diaspora Affairs	675.90	-	675.90
1221: State Department for East African Community (SDEAC)	587.40	-	587.40
East African Affairs and Regional Integration	587.40	-	587.40
1281: National Intelligence Service (NIS)	52,396.00	-	52,396.00
National Security Intelligence	52,396.00	-	52,396.00

Source: The National Treasury

3. Other Recommendations

The Committee requests the following:

- (i) The ceiling for the MoD be enhanced by **KES.3,480.00 million** to cater for the following critical funding gaps:
 - a) **KES.1,000.00 million** for tooling and kitting of KSL to achieve Public Private Partnership Agreement.
 - b) **KES.980.00 million** for contractual Obligation on refurbishment of M1-17, Augusta and MD 500.
 - c) **KES.1,500.00 million** for KMC factory modernization to meet international standards to access export market.
- (ii) The NIS ceiling be enhanced by **KES.5.00 billion** to cater for:
 - a) **KES.1.00 billion** - recruitment of additional personnel; and
 - b) **KES.4.00 billion** - expansion of surveillance systems.
- (iii) The State Department for East African Community (SDEAC) Affairs ceiling be enhanced by **KES.439.76 million** for the EAC Chairmanship component because Kenya is the current EAC Chair, and the position has a huge responsibility towards meeting regional integration objectives.

B. REPORT ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

The draft report was considered and adopted having been proposed by Hon. Yusuf Hassan, M.P and seconded by Hon. Elijah Memusi, M.P. It was adopted with the following recommendations:

1. Ministry of Defence (MoD)

- a) The MoD should submit to the Committee, within 30 days from the date of adoption of the report by the House, a detailed report on receipts and expenditures of the National Peace Support Fund since its inception.
- b) The MoD should submit to the Committee, within 30 days from the date of adoption of the report by the House, a detailed report on the acquisitions using the KES.3 billion was provided for the Purchase of Mine-Resistance ambush-protected vehicles in Supplementary Estimates II for FY 2023/24.

2. State Department for Foreign Affairs.

- a) To properly manage the problem of high rental and leasing costs for Missions abroad, the State Department for Foreign Affairs should submit to the Committee, within 30 days from the date of adoption of the report by the House, a detailed asset acquisition plan (rent-to-own scheme) to ensure that in the long run it owns the properties.
- b) SDFA budgeting and performance reporting should be linked to the five foreign policy pillars i.e., Peace Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy, Environmental Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy and Diaspora Diplomacy. This will enable an assessment the effectiveness in the use of resources allocated to SDFA.

3. State Department for Diaspora Affairs

The State Department should submit to the Committee, within 30 days from the date of adoption of the report by the House, the firmed-up Diaspora Policy 2024 for the Committee's review and recommendations.

4. State Department for East African Community

The State Department for East African Community to submit a report to the Committee, within 30 days from the date of adoption of the report by the House, detailing how inadequate funding has inhibited it from fully discharging its mandate, and how its budgetary allocation compares with the equivalent Ministries/State Department of the other EAC Partner States, and how EAC has benefited Kenya visa-vis its contribution to EAC in the last 3 financial years.

C. REPORT ON TREATY ESTABLISHING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IGAD)

The draft report was considered and adopted having been proposed by Hon. Moses Kirima, M.P and seconded by Hon. Fredrick Ikana, M.P. It was adopted with the following observations and recommendation:

Observations

- a) The Treaty aligns with Kenya's constitutional values, including good governance, democracy, the rule of law, accountability, and respect for human rights. The fundamental and operational principles of the Treaty are consistent with the Constitution and existing statutory frameworks. Ratification of the Treaty does not necessitate any constitutional amendments or changes to current laws but may require adjustments to policy frameworks for effective implementation.
- b) The Treaty seeks to enhance IGAD's capacity to address critical regional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, and cross-border crimes. The focus of IGAD on peace-building and conflict resolution, particularly in Somalia and South Sudan, directly supports Kenya's security objectives. Kenya stands to benefit from improved regional stability, reduced risks of refugee influxes, curbed illegal arms trafficking, and strengthened mechanisms for intelligence sharing and joint operations. IGAD's role in fostering dialogue and peaceful co-existence is critical to regional stability, which in turn reinforces Kenya's internal security.
- c) The Treaty's emphasis on regional economic integration directly benefits Kenya's trade and investment landscape. By reducing trade barriers, harmonising regulations, and facilitating cross-border infrastructure projects, IGAD seeks to enhance the ease of doing business in the region. Kenya's strategic location and robust agricultural sector position it to benefit significantly from initiatives aimed at improving market access, reducing logistical costs, and promoting large-scale infrastructure projects, such as transport and energy corridors. The facilitation of free movement of goods, services, labour, and capital is expected to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities in Kenya and the wider region.
- d) IGAD's expanded mandate includes promoting climate resilience, drought management, and sustainable resource use. This aligns with Kenya's national environmental priorities and offers a platform for addressing transboundary resource management challenges, such as shared water resources and ecosystems. The Treaty provides Kenya access to regional and international funding for environmental projects, particularly those targeting climate adaptation, desertification control, and agricultural sustainability.

- e) Ratification of the Treaty positions Kenya as a prominent leader within IGAD, enabling it to influence regional policies on key issues such as security, economic integration, and environmental management. The Treaty will bolster Kenya's standing within AU and support its aspiration to play a leading role in shaping continental and global agendas. IGAD's alignment with the AU's goals will further enhance Kenya's diplomatic reach and strategic positioning in multilateral forums.
- f) The Treaty's peace-building initiatives are anticipated to reduce displacement caused by regional conflicts, thereby lessening the burden of refugees on Kenya's resources. IGAD's focus on health, education, and labour mobility provides opportunities for Kenyan citizens to access services, employment, and education within the region. The facilitation of people-to-people connections fosters social cohesion and supports the integration of communities across borders.
- g) Ratification of the Treaty does not impose significant additional financial burdens on Kenya, as the associated costs will be accommodated within existing budgetary provisions. IGAD's reliance on member contributions and external funding will ensure the sustainability of its operations. Kenya's participation in donor-supported IGAD programs will further reduce the financial burden on national resources.
- h) The Treaty seeks to strengthen IGAD's organisational structure by enhancing the roles and functions of its principal organs—the Assembly, Council, Committee of Ambassadors, and Secretariat. The Assembly is mandated to provide policy direction, oversee implementation, and establish additional organs as required. The Council's expanded functions include issuing regulations, appointing Deputy Executive Secretaries, and implementing decisions of the Assembly. The Committee of Ambassadors now advises on action plans and monitors programme implementation. The Secretariat is tasked with developing policies, coordinating programmes, and managing financial and human resources. These enhancements will ensure a robust institutional framework for achieving IGAD's objectives.
- i) The Treaty seeks to broaden IGAD's areas of cooperation to include trade liberalisation, transport and communications, tourism, energy, agriculture, gender equality, investment, and the free movement of goods, labour, and capital. The emphasis on human resource development and private-sector participation is expected to spur innovation and economic diversification in member states, including Kenya.
- j) The Treaty introduces a structured dispute resolution framework to address disagreements arising from its interpretation. Disputes are to be resolved amicably through negotiations facilitated by the Council of Ministers. An ad hoc Dispute Resolution Mechanism may also be established by the Assembly upon the Council's recommendation. This framework will ensure transparency and fairness in resolving conflicts, promoting harmony among member states.
- k) The Treaty reinforces IGAD's role as a foundational pillar of the AEC, contributing to the broader goals of the African Union for continental integration. Its alignment with continental initiatives like AfCFTA underscores its importance in advancing regional and continental economic development.

- l) The Treaty shall enter into force sixty days after the deposit of the instrument of ratification of two-thirds of the Member States of IGAD with the Executive Secretary. Currently, the Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of South Sudan have ratified the treaty.
- m) The Committee ensured compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements for public participation, although no public memoranda were received. Stakeholders, including the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Office of the Attorney General, expressed unanimous support for the Treaty. Their submissions highlighted the strategic benefits of ratification for Kenya's national and regional interests.

Recommendation

The Committee recommended that Pursuant to Section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, 2012, the House **approves** the Ratification of the Treaty Establishing Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

D. REPORT ON PROPOSED TREATY-MAKING AND RATIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 BY HON.PETER KALUMA, CBS, M.P.

The draft report was considered and adopted having been proposed by Hon. Yusuf Hassan, M.P and seconded by Hon. Fredrick Ikana, M.P. It was adopted with the following observations and recommendation:

Observations

- a) The legislative proposal expands the scope of the memorandum accompanying the treaty transmitted from Cabinet to the National Assembly, to include the number and identity of States party to a treaty. However, this may be impractical, given the dynamic nature of international negotiations and the evolving commitments of States.
- b) The legislative proposal seeks to subject treaties to a similar legislative process as Bills. The first step in the legislative process of a Bill is First Reading. Historically, the first reading serves as an opportunity to introduce the Bill to the House and to the public for the first time. However, this is not the case for treaties since they are negotiated and concluded by the Executive.
- c) Amendments to Bills are usually proposed between the Second Reading and Committee of the Whole House, either through the relevant Committee or individual Members of Parliament. However, amendments to Treaties are proposed and negotiated between State parties as provided under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.
- d) The National Assembly Standing Orders already mandates the relevant Committee to facilitate public participation before its consideration of a Treaty.
- e) The current legislative framework enables the National Assembly to review a Treaty through the relevant Committee and, if necessary, propose reservations which shall be applicable under the Vienna Convention on the Laws of Treaties. This ensures that the National Assembly discharges its constitutional mandate of law-making.
- f) Parliament should be empowered to guide the Executive by providing recommendations that ensure treaties conform to Kenya's legal and policy framework. Where the ultimate treaty provisions do not align with national standards, Parliament may register reservations during ratification to safeguard Kenya's interests.

Recommendation

The Committee recommended that the Proposed Treaty Making and Ratification (Amendment) Bill 2024 should not proceed for publication.

E. REPORT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSIES IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE STATE OF QATAR CONDUCTED FROM 7TH TO 13TH NOVEMBER 2024.

The draft report was considered and adopted having been proposed by Hon. Yusuf Hassan, M.P and seconded by Hon. Moses Kirima, M.P. It was adopted with the following recommendations:

General Recommendations

- (1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should: -
 - (a) Collaborate with the National Treasury to: -
 - (i) Establish a *Diaspora Welfare Fund* to provide financial and legal assistance to distressed Kenyans.
 - (ii) Revise the Embassy budget framework to account for *annual rent increments* in Abu Dhabi and Doha, with adjustments included in the 2025/2026 budget cycle.
 - (iii) Implement *Foreign Exchange Stabilization Mechanism* to mitigate forex conversion losses impacting embassy operations.
 - (iv) Implement a performance-based funding and resource allocation framework for Kenya's diplomatic Missions, ensuring that support is directly proportional to the economic, diplomatic, and diaspora-related opportunities they generate for the country.
 - (b) Spearhead negotiation for the recognition of Kenyan nursing certifications in Qatar under the revised Bilateral Labour Agreement.
 - (c) Procure new vehicles for the Kenyan Embassies in Abu Dhabi and Doha to replace the outdated fleet, and refurbish the office furniture and ICT infrastructure at both embassies to enhance service delivery.
 - (d) Establish a Joint Bilateral Agreements Monitoring Unit to track the implementation of signed MoUs, to ensure that labour, trade, and investment agreements are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect emerging economic opportunities.
 - (e) Appoint a Special Envoy for UAE and Qatar Relations to coordinate high-level engagements and fast-track pending negotiations, including the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and expansion of skilled labour migration.
 - (f) Collaborate with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to work with Embassies to expedite the delivery of government services to Kenyans in the diaspora.
- (2) The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should: -
 - (a) Collaborate with the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), and engage the equivalent UAE and Qatari authorities to establish *Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)* to enhance the employability of Kenyan professionals in healthcare, engineering, education and other sectors in UAE and Qatar.
 - (b) Establish an Implementation Committee to oversee labour migration, ensure compliance with employment contracts, and enforce worker protections.

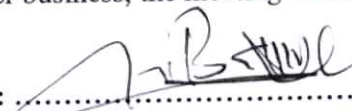
- (c) Require the recruitment agencies to submit copies of signed contracts to Kenyan embassies before workers leave Kenya for jobs in the diaspora.
 - (d) Deregister and blacklist fraudulent recruitment agencies and enforce a strict accreditation system where only licensed and vetted agencies can operate.
- (3) The Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry should: -
- (a) Develop an Export Certification Program to assist Kenyan businesses in meeting UAE and Qatari compliance requirements.
 - (b) Collaborate with the Kenyan embassies in UAE and Qatar to facilitate trade delegations and networking events aimed at improving Kenya's reputation among Qatari and UAE investors.
 - (c) Develop a *Kenya-UAE/Qatar Trade Expansion Strategy*, focusing on value addition in exports, certification support for Kenyan businesses, and streamlined access to UAE and Qatari markets.
 - (d) Establish an Investment Facilitation Desk at the Kenya Chamber of Commerce to coordinate UAE/Qatar investment interests
- (4) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should: -
- (a) Collaborate with the State Department for Trade, to establish a *Kenyan Agricultural Export Standards Compliance Program*, incorporating capacity-building for farmers on proper harvesting, packaging and export certification, to enhance adherence to UAE and other export market requirements.
 - (b) Collaborate with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD) to quarterly audits on agricultural exports to ensure compliance with UAE and other foreign quality standards.
- (5) The Kenyan Missions in Abu Dhabi and Doha should set up designated safe houses to accommodate vulnerable Kenyan workers, especially those facing employer mistreatment or deportation.
- (6) The Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) should initiate a targeted FDI promotion campaign to attract new investments from the UAE and Qatar.
- (7) The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife should initiate negotiations with UAE and Qatari investors to establish a joint tourism revenue-sharing framework, ensuring that Kenya benefits more from the tourism value chain and wildlife conservation partnerships.
- 5.2 Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the United Arab Emirates**
- (8) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Embassy of Kenya in Abu Dhabi, UAE should: -
- (a) Engage UAE authorities to develop a structured mechanism for reviewing re-entry bans imposed on Kenyan nationals, and coordinate with UAE's Immigration Department and Ministry of Human Resources to facilitate individual case assessments.
 - (b) Establish a dedicated psychosocial support unit within the Embassy in Abu Dhabi to provide mental health counseling, substance abuse awareness, and reintegration support for distressed Kenyans.
 - (c) Develop a digital registration and tracking system to maintain an updated database of Kenyans living and working in the UAE for improved consular service delivery.
- 5.3 Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the State of Qatar**
- (9) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Embassy of Kenya in Doha, Qatar should: -

- (a) Formalize a Labour Dispute Resolution Desk in collaboration with the Qatari Ministry of Labour to handle complaints of unpaid wages, contract breaches, and mistreatment. The Embassy should also conduct quarterly labour rights awareness forums for Kenyan workers to educate them on their rights.
- (b) Expedite engagements with Qatari authorities to operationalize the Qatar Visa Centre in Nairobi to ensure pre-departure verification of work permits.
- (c) Align the rental expenditure for the Embassy of Kenya in Doha, Qatar with the approved budget ceiling by implementing cost-containment measures, opting more favourable lease terms, and seeking budgetary adjustments through the National Treasury in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 412A, and the Public Finance Management (National Government) Regulations, Legal Notice 34 of 2015.
- (d) The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) should approve an additional flight route for Qatar Airways to Mombasa to enhance tourism, trade, and connectivity at the Kenyan coast in line with *Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2024 on the National Aviation Policy*.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/056/2025:

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m. The next meeting will be held on notice.

SIGNED:  DATE: 14/3/2025

 THE HON. NELSON KOECH, C.B.S, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE
AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT - THIRD SESSION - 2024
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
DC- DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

**MINUTES OF THE 63RD SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH
NOVEMBER, 2024 AT 10:00 AM IN BUNGE TOWER, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM 11,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.**

PRESENT

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| 1. The Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P. | - | Chairperson |
| 2. The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, C.B.S, M.P | | |
| 3. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, M.P. | | |
| 4. The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P. | | |
| 5. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P. | | |
| 6. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P. | | |
| 7. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P. | | |
| 8. The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P. | | |

APOLOGIES

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1. The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 2. The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, C.B.S, M.P. | | |
| 3. The Hon.(Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P. | | |
| 4. The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P | | |
| 5. The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P. | | |
| 6. The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P. | | |
| 7. The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P. | | |

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Dennis M. Ogechi | - | Clerk Assistant I |
| 2. Mr. Bernard Njeru | - | Clerk Assistant II |
| 3. Mr. Abdi Salat | - | Principal Serjeant at Arms II |
| 4. Ms. Noelle Chellagat | - | Media Relations Officer II |
| 5. Mr. Daniel Ominde | - | Research Officer III |
| 6. Mr. Lenny Muchangi | - | Legal Officer II |
| 7. Mr. Nephath Githinji | - | Intern |
| 8. Ms. Lovin Wambwire | - | Intern |

AGENDA

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda
2. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
3. **Consideration and adoption of reports on: The Consideration of the Treaty-Making and Ratification (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bill No. 9 of 2024) and the participation in the Mobile Consular Services Exercise in Texas, USA from 4th to 7th April, 2024.**
4. Any Other Business
5. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/304/2024:

PRELIMINARIES.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., a prayer was said and the agenda above was unanimously adopted having been proposed by the Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, C.B.S, M.P. and seconded by the Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/305/2024:

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SITTINGS.

Confirmation of minutes of previous sittings was deferred to a later date.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/306/2024:

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE TREATY-MAKING AND RATIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 9 OF 2024).

The report on the consideration of the Treaty-Making and Ratification (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (National Assembly Bill No. 9 Of 2024) Sponsored by Hon. George Murugara, M.P. was unanimously having been proposed by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.

The report was adopted with the following observations and recommendations.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that:

- a) The Bill seeks to incorporate a special enactment procedure for economic treaties, to strengthen the participation of the National Assembly in the treaty-making process and to generally enhance the efficiency of the treaty-making process.
- b) Article 95 of the Constitution mandates the National Assembly to make laws. Article 2 (6) of the Constitution incorporates ratified treaties or conventions under the laws of Kenya, therefore the National Assembly should be involved in the law-making process. This Bill enables the National Assembly to effectively and efficiently discharge this constitutional mandate.
- c) The term “accession” is already included within the definition of ratification therefore the proposed amendment to introduce it as a new definition is obsolete.

- d) The amendment enabling the Leader of the Majority Party and the Leader of the Minority Party to accompany the Cabinet Secretary at the point of ratifying the treaty may violate the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers since the mandate of ratification of a treaty is purely and executive function not upon the National Assembly.
- e) Pursuant to Standing Order 133 (4), an amendment shall not be permitted to be moved if the amendment deals with a different subject or proposes to unreasonably or unduly expand the subject of the Bill, or is not appropriate or is not in a logical sequence to the subject matter of the Bill.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee having considered the Treaty Making and Ratification (Amendment) Bill 2024 (*National Assembly Bill No. 9 of 2024*) recommends that the House approves the Bill with the following amendments:

CLAUSE 2

THAT, Clause 2 of the Bill be amended by—

- (a) deleting the proposed new definition of “accession”; and

Rationale: The term “accession” is already captured under the definition of “ratification”.

- (b) inserting the following new definition in its proper alphabetical sequence—
“unilateral trade agreement” means one-sided, non-reciprocal trade preferences granted by developed countries to developing ones, to help them to increase exports and spur economic development.

Rationale: The definition of “unilateral trade agreement” provides clarify on the proposed amendments in the Bill and removes ambiguity.

CLAUSE 9

THAT, the Bill be amended by deleting Clause 9.

Rationale: The proposed amendment may infringe on the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/307/2024:

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE
MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICES EXERCISE
IN TEXAS, USA FROM 4TH TO 7TH APRIL,
2024.**

The report on the participation in the Mobile Consular Services Exercise in Texas, USA from 4th to 7th April, 2024 was unanimously adopted having been proposed by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P. and seconded by the Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, C.B.S, M.P.

It was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that:

- 1) During the exercise the E-Citizen portal encountered challenges causing inconveniences;
 - a) The E-citizen portal requires individuals to have a Kenyan phone number to enable them to log in. Many Kenyan Diaspora members do not have a Kenyan phone number, making it impossible for them to log in.
 - b) The E-Citizen portal experienced software bugs. The issue affected users who had registered on the platform using their email addresses, as they were unable to receive the One Time Password (OTP) necessary to access, pay, and download the documentation required for passport applications.
 - c) Difficulties in uploading documents on the requisite portals.
- 2) Passports and National identification cards were the most sought-after documents.
- 3) Volunteers' inconsistent availability led to planning gaps and required the MCS team and embassy staff to work late due to the Kenyan Diaspora's significant turnout.
- 4) A large majority of the Kenyan diaspora did not receive enough information about the requirements for registering for consular services. Additionally, many were unaware of the availability of the Mobile Consular Services programme.
- 5) The National Registration Bureau was still using manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID card applications which is old-fashioned.
- 6) There was inadequate facilitation of volunteers.
- 7) Many Kenyans arrived at the MCS exercise unprepared, failing to complete the necessary forms and bring copies of their documents. This causes delays and prevents some individuals from accessing the services they require.
- 8) The Kenyan Diaspora expressed concerns regarding data privacy, particularly the use of mail addresses and phone numbers required for e-citizen accounts. Some individuals requested the deletion of their photographs, which impeded data collection efforts and reflected a lack of trust in government-led initiatives.
- 9) Limited digital literacy among a specific group of Kenyans resulted in their inability to apply for passports online, necessitating assistance from the on-the-ground team.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegation recommended the following:

1. The Mission should be properly involved from the inception stage to the execution of the program.
2. Deployment of more officers from the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to cater for the large number of Kenyans who turn up for the services in future.
3. The State Department should conduct thorough sensitization for Kenyans on how to fill out E-Citizen forms online, the MCS dates, and venues to avoid unnecessary inconveniences and delays.
4. Enhancement of the E-Citizen platform to make it more user-friendly for the diaspora community in terms of payments and uploading required documents.

5. The Diaspora should create a requisition register before the MCS exercise. This will help the implementation team to plan and allocate resources based on reliable information.
6. Financing of the MCS exercise is a key determinant for progress. The State Department should ensure availability of funds before commencement of the outreach programme.
7. Prior preparation of the MCS exercise Stations with clearly labeled workstations.
8. Adequate facilitation of the MCS team and volunteers with relevant requirements including live fingerprint capture for Identity Card applications for accuracy and speedy service delivery, branded t-shirts and caps for easier identification.

MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/308/2024:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS


The Chairperson notified the Committee of the following:

1. An invitation to a High-Level Consultative Forum on the Review of Kenya Foreign Policy to be held on 20th November, 2024 in KICC by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, State Department for Foreign Affairs.
2. Questions by the True North Society regarding the operationalization of the Military Veteran's Act, 2022.
3. Invitation by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration for a stakeholder engagement on the Draft Diaspora Policy 2024, and International Jobs Placement in Mombasa County from 17th to 23rd November, 2024.
4. Chairperson's invitation to a cocktail reception by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on November, 22nd at 18:30 at the Italian residence.
5. Courtesy call by the Ambassador/permanent representative of the Swiss Confederation to Kenya

MIN. NO. DDC/DIFR/309/2024:

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting to be held on notice.

SIGNED:  DATE: 13/02/25

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