

Approved
Boss D/SNA
01/07/2026



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION (2026)
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN
RELATIONS

REPORT ON INSPECTION VISITS TO KENYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA CONDUCTED FROM
24TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER 2025



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

JULY 2026

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE:	02 JUL 2026 DAY: Thursday
TABLED BY:	Changerson DC
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Halima Ahmed

NUU 101

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	2
LIST OF ANNEXURES (VOLUME II OF THE REPORT).....	3
LEADER OF DELEGATION’S FOREWORD	4
Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe	6
Specific Recommendations – The High Commission to the Republic of Botswana.....	6
1.0 PREFACE.....	8
1.1 Introduction.....	8
1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee	9
1.3 Committee Subjects.....	9
1.4 Committee Membership	9
1.5 Committee Secretariat	11
1.6 Delegation	11
2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE	12
2.1 Background Information.....	12
2.2 Political Context.....	12
2.3.1 Establishment of the Kenyan Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe	13
2.3.2 Staff Establishment.....	14
2.3.3 High-Level Visits Between Kenya and Zimbabwe	15
2.3.4 Consular Matters	16
2.4 Bilateral Relations.....	17
2.4.1 Labour Relations.....	17
2.4.2 Trade and investment.....	18
2.6 Meeting with the Kenyan diaspora community in Zimbabwe.....	21
2.7 Challenges faced by the Embassy	23
3.0 THE KENYAN HIGH COMMISSION IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA	25
3.1 Background Information.....	25
3.2 Political Context.....	25
3.3 The Kenyan High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana.....	25
3.3.1 Establishment of the Kenyan High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana	26
3.3.2 Staff Establishment.....	27
3.3.3 Consular Matters	27
3.4.1 High-Level Visits Between Kenya and Botswana	28
3.4.5 Education, Science and Technology	31
3.5 Assets and Financial Matters.....	33
3.6 Challenges Faced by the Mission.....	35
4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS	38
4.1 General Observations.....	38
4.2 Specific Observations - Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe.....	35
4.3 Specific Observations – the High Commission to the Republic of Botswana	39
5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	41
5.1 General Recommendations	41
5.2 Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe	42
5.3 Specific Recommendations – The High Commission to the Republic of Botswana.....	42

1 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFROSAI	African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
AIE	Authority to Incur Expenditure
ANC	Amani National Congress
BSAC	British South Africa Company
BLA	Bilateral Labour Agreement
CBS	Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CUE	Commission for University Education
EAC	East African Community Affairs
EGH	Elder of the Golden Heart
FNC	Federal National Council
FRO	Foreign Relations Office
FSA	Foreign Service Allowance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITCBC	Institutional and Technical Capacity Building Committee
JPCC	Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation
KEBS	Kenya bureau of standards
KES	Kenya Shillings
KCAA	Kenya Civil Aviation Authority
KEBS	Kenya Bureau of Standards
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KNQA	Kenya National Qualifications Authority
MDA	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NTSA	National Transport and Safety Authority
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
PAPSS	Pan-African Payments and Settlement System
SACU	South African Custom Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAZ	Standards Association of Zimbabwe

UDM	United Democratic Movement
UNEA-6	United Nations Environmental Assembly
USD	United States Dollar
WDM-K	Wiper Democratic Movement of Kenya
WHO	World Health Organization
ZANU–PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front party
ZIDA	Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency
ZNCC	Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce

LIST OF ANNEXURES (VOLUME II OF THE REPORT)

Annexure 1: Botswana Mission FY 2024/25 Budget Allocation and Utilization (Amount in KES.)

Annexure 2: Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered and adopted the Report

Annexure 2: Minutes of the Committee

LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD

This report details a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the Kenyan Embassies in Harare, Zimbabwe and Gaborone, Botswana, from 24th to 28th November 2026. The visit aimed to inspect and appraise the Committee on the operations and challenges of the two diplomatic missions.

During the inspection visit, the Committee engaged with mission officials, government authorities, and Kenyan diaspora representatives to identify challenges, successes, and areas of improvement in diplomatic operations. The Committee noted that Kenya enjoys strong diplomatic and economic ties with both Zimbabwe and Botswana, with significant trade and investment flows between Kenya and the Southern African region. However, the missions face budgetary constraints, administrative challenges, and operational inefficiencies that hinder their ability to provide essential consular services, facilitate labour migration and trade relations effectively.

Among the key challenges observed were financial constraints, outdated office infrastructure, lack of essential staff at the missions, lack of recognition of Kenyan academic and professional qualifications in Botswana, and an unfavourable business environment attributed to stringent regional blocs. Despite the trade balance being in Kenya's favour, there is potential for more trade with the region. The Committee also noted that many Kenyans working in Botswana are facing challenges regarding renewal of work and residence permits.

Having visited, received briefings and inspected both the chanceries and the residences of the ambassadors, the Delegation made the following recommendation: -

General Recommendations

The Committee made the following general recommendations:

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should: -
 - a. Collaborate with the National Treasury to: -
 - i) Revise the Missions budget framework to account for *exchange rate losses and* in Harare and Gaborone, with adjustments included in the 2025/2026 budget cycle.
 - ii) Review of the financial disbursement process to mitigate such losses, ensure timely disbursements, and uninterrupted operation of the missions.
 - iii) Enhance Missions budgets to cater for construction of modern chancery facilities, diaspora and trade promotions in the two countries.
 - iv) Implement *Foreign Exchange Stabilization Mechanism* to mitigate forex conversion losses impacting the Missions' operations and bank charges.

- v) 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. Replace representational vehicles, office furniture, and household furniture for staff and install ICT infrastructure at the missions to enhance service delivery.
 - c. Deploy trade attaches and Foreign Relations Officers to enhance service delivery.
 - d. Establish a Joint Bilateral Agreements Monitoring Unit to track the implementation and regular reviews of signed MoUs, to ensure that labour, trade, and investment agreements reflect emerging economic opportunities.
 - e. Appoint a Special Envoy for Southern African 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 such as renewal of passports to Kenyans in the diaspora.
 - g. Consider merging missions that are not economically viable to enhance operational efficiency and prudence by adopting multiple accreditations where necessary, rather than operating fully fledged missions that are not well facilitated.
- 2) The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should collaborate with the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and engage the equivalent Botswana authorities to establish ***Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)*** to enhance the employability of Kenyan professionals in healthcare, legal, and other sectors in Botswana.
 - 3) The Ministry of Interior and National Administration should enhance the E-Citizen platform and integrate all government agencies and automate document authentication, as in the case with the Commission of University Education, to ensure a seamless authentication process.
 - 4) The Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry should: -
 - (a) Collaborate with the Kenyan missions in Zimbabwe and Botswana to facilitate trade exhibitions and networking events aimed at creating awareness and marketing of Kenyan products such as tea and coffee in the two countries and the entire South African region.

- (b) Develop a ***Kenya-Zimbabwe/Botswana Trade Expansion Strategy***, focusing on value addition in exports and streamlined access to Zimbabwean and Botswana markets.
- (c) The State Department of Trade and Enterprise Development should deploy trade attachés to engage stakeholders and resolve market entry challenges.

Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe

The delegation, having considered the above observations, recommends that:

- a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should:
 - i. Consider constructing a new modern facility for a chancery outside Harare Central Business District and renovating or demolishing and reconstructing the old property for commercial purposes. This approach would enhance overall infrastructure and operational efficiency.
 - ii. Ensure adequate funding for the refurbishment and solar installations in all the government-owned premises in Harare, Zimbabwe, to make them good for habitation by the Embassy staff.
 - iii. In collaboration with the Embassy of Kenya in Zimbabwe, act with speed and ensure compliance with the Cabinet directive issued in March 2025 on the immediate removal of all asbestos-containing roofing materials from public and private buildings on embassy premises in Zimbabwe.
 - iv. Spearhead collaboration with Zimbabwean authorities to develop banking regulations and policies to streamline the sector, build customer confidence, and create more opportunities in the banking sector.
 - v. Spearhead negotiations for the issuance of residence and citizenship

Specific Recommendations – The High Commission to the Republic of Botswana

Having considered the above observations, the Delegation recommends that:

- a) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the High Commission of Kenya in Gaborone, Botswana should:
 - i. Prioritize the acquisition of a government-owned Chancery and residences to ensure long-term efficiency and prudence in resource utilization.
 - ii. Urgently replace the grounded representational vehicle to enhance efficiency.
 - iii. Engage with the Counterpart ministry from the Republic of Botswana to unlock the stalemate on the renewal and issuance of work permits and resident permits to Kenyans.
 - iv. Fast-track the review of the BASA to renegotiate for the inclusion of both additional frequencies to Gaborone and new entry points of Francistown, Maun and Kasane. The review is critical in removing the stringent terms attached to 5th Freedom Traffic to ensure.

6 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

- v. Align the rental expenditure for the Kenyan Mission in Gaborone, Botswana, with the approved budget ceiling by implementing cost-containment measures 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.
- b) The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should collaborate with the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and engage the equivalent Botswana authorities to establish Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) to enhance the employability of Kenyan professionals in healthcare, legal, and other sectors in Botswana.
- c) The State Department for Transport should be embodied and deploy NTSA attaches in missions to facilitate issuance and renewal of driving licenses.
- d) The Mission should harmonize documents' certification and authentication charges.

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 a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a Delegation of the Committee to Kenya's diplomatic missions in Harare, Zimbabwe and Gaborone, Botswana, from 24th to 28th November 2025.

Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.

Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations

Leader of the Delegation

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

1. Kenya's foreign relations are central to the country's pursuit of national interests. These relations are instrumental in promoting trade and investment, ensuring the welfare of Kenyans living abroad, and encouraging both bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Through strategic diplomatic engagement, Kenya seeks to strengthen its international profile and foster beneficial partnerships around the globe.
2. The Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations is tasked with providing oversight on Kenya's foreign policy, diplomatic missions, and the nation's strategic engagements with other countries. This mandate ensures accountability and effectiveness in the execution of Kenya's international objectives.
3. The Committee conducted an inspection visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, and the High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana, from November 24th to 28th, 2025. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the missions' effectiveness in implementing Kenya's diplomatic goals, delivering consular services, and facilitating economic partnerships. During the visit, the Committee assessed the capacity and operational efficiency of both missions, identified challenges faced, and examined policy interventions that could enhance Kenya's diplomatic presence in the South African region.
4. Zimbabwe and Botswana are key strategic partners for Kenya in the South African region. These partnerships are particularly significant in the areas of trade and investment, defence, agriculture and food security, standardization and technical knowledge, education, air transport, and tourism. Strengthening cooperation in these sectors is vital for advancing Kenya's interests and enhancing regional integration.
5. The Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana are strategic partners for Kenya in the South African Region, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, Defence, Agriculture and food security, standardization and technical knowledge, education, air transport and tourism.
6. Kenya and Zimbabwe have reinforced their bilateral relations by elevating their Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) to a Bi-National Commission at the level of Heads of State, with an emphasis on economic transformation, trade, and defence. Principal agreements aim to bolster trade, agriculture, technology, and diplomatic cooperation to attract investment. Additionally, Kenya and Botswana are enhancing strategic partnerships focused on livestock development, trade diversification, and technology exchange, with the goal of fostering economic growth and food security. Key areas of collaboration include agricultural

initiatives, specifically in cattle breeding and vaccine production, as well as joint investments in mining, tourism, and digital technology.

7. This report highlights critical observations made during the Committee's engagements with Kenyan diplomats, government officials, and Kenyan diaspora representatives in Harare and Gaborone. The report further presents recommendations aimed at improving labour relations, boosting trade and investment, ensuring financial prudence in Kenya's missions, and strengthening bilateral agreements to maximize Kenya's benefits from its partnerships with Zimbabwe and Botswana.

1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

8. 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

9. 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.*
10. 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

11. The Committee, initially constituted by the House on **27th October 2022** and reconstituted on **6th 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:

9 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

Chairperson
Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.
Belgut Constituency
UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, CBS, M.P.
Mandera North Constituency
UDM Party

Members

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, CBS, M.P.
Suba North Constituency

ODM Party

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

UDA Party

Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.
Kamukunji Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.
Kajiado Central Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P.
Kitui County

WDM-K

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.
Central Imenti Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.
Saboti Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Joshua Kandie, M.P.
Baringo Central Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.
Kinangop Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.
Sabatia Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.
Shinyalu Constituency
ANC Party

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, M.P.
Lagdera Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P.
Kiambu County
UDA Party

1.5 Committee Secretariat

12. The Committee Secretariat comprises the following technical staff:

Mr. Emmanuel Meldaki Muyodi
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. Martin Sigei
Research Officer III

1.6 Delegation

13. The delegation comprised of:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (a) Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P. | - (Leader of Delegation) |
| (b) Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P. | - Member |
| (c) Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P. | - Member |
| (d) Mr. Bernard Nthiga | - Clerk Assistant III (Delegation Secretary) |

2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE

2.1 Background Information

14. Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in south-central Africa, covering approximately 390,580 square kilometers. Previously known as Southern Rhodesia until 1965 and later as Rhodesia, Zimbabwe is named after the Great Zimbabwe stone ruins near the southern town of Masvingo (formerly Fort Victoria), built between AD 1270 and 1500. These structures are the second-largest man-made structures in Africa's ancient history after the pyramids of Egypt. "Zimbabwe" is derived from the Shona phrase *dzimba-dzemabwe*, meaning "houses of stone".
15. The Country was colonized by the British South Africa Company (BSAC), led by Cecil Rhodes, in the 1890s as Southern Rhodesia. The country experienced white minority rule and gained independence in 1965 and achieved black majority rule on April 18, 1980, after a long civil war that pitted a small white minority government against the African majority from the 1960s onward. Its largest city is Harare, the capital. The country's economy is based mainly on mining, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing.

2.2 Political Context

16. Zimbabwe is a constitutional democracy featuring a three-pillar system: The Executive (President, Vice Presidents, and Cabinet), the Legislature (Parliament), and the Judiciary. The Country's 2013 Constitution emphasizes a multi-tiered governance structure, separating powers across national, provincial, and local levels to facilitate citizen participation through bodies like councils and traditional leadership.
17. The country is a stable democracy that holds timely, democratic elections every 5 years, which does not hinder the work of the Mission. The Executive comprises the President as the Head of State, Head of Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, elected for five-year terms. The President appoints Cabinet Ministers, the Legislature (Parliament) is a bicameral system comprising the national assembly and the Senate, while the judiciary entails Independent courts, led by the Chief Justice to oversee the administration of justice.
18. The political space of the Republic of Zimbabwe is defined by the continued dominance of the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) party, which has held power since independence in 1980. Following the 2017 military-assisted coup that removed long-time leader Robert Mugabe, the country has been under the leadership of His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa, navigating a transition marked by promises of economic recovery.

12 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

2.3 The Kenyan Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe

19. The delegation was received by Kenya's Ambassador to Harare, Amb. Getrude Nyausi Angote. The delegation was briefed as follows:

2.3.1 Establishment of the Kenyan Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe

20. Kenya and Zimbabwe maintain fully-fledged diplomatic Missions at ambassadorial levels in each other's capitals, reflecting the depth and importance of their bilateral ties. The Kenyan Mission in Harare was established in 1980 to advance Kenya's Foreign Policy through robust and effective diplomatic engagement. The Mission was initially established as a High Commission shortly after Zimbabwe gained independence on 18th April 1980 from the former British white-settler-dominated Rhodesian rule, in its current location in Harare.
21. The Kenyan Mission in Harare was established to advance Kenya's foreign policy through robust and effective diplomatic engagement. The strategic objectives of the Mission include:
- a) Enhancing peace, security, stability and Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity,
 - b) Enhancing economic cooperation, international trade and investment,
 - c) Promoting and safeguarding Kenya's interests,
 - d) Enhancing Diaspora engagement and provision of Consular services,
 - e) Strengthening public diplomacy and stakeholders' engagement, and
 - f) Strengthening policy, legal and institutional capacity
22. On 7th December 2003, Zimbabwe formally terminated its membership in the Commonwealth, and the Mission became an Embassy following the withdrawal from the Commonwealth. Initially, the Mission was accredited to cover Swaziland, Lesotho, Madagascar, and Mozambique. But this situation has since changed, and the Mission now covers the English-speaking Zimbabwe.
23. The functions of the Mission include:
- a) Management of Kenya's Foreign Policy,
 - b) Projection, Promotion and Protection of Kenya's Interest and Image in Zimbabwe,
 - c) Management of Kenya's Embassy in Harare,
 - d) Co-ordinating Regional Peace Initiatives,
 - e) Lobbying for Kenya's Candidatures in the International Governance System,
 - f) Support the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in harnessing Kenya's Diaspora for national development,
 - g) Liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe,

- h) Co-ordination of State and Official Visits,
- i) Protocol and Courtesy,
- j) Provision of Consular Services,
- k) Management of the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation with Zimbabwe.

22. The Kenyan mission has been served by the following twelve ambassadors since its establishment:

- a) Amb. Gertrude Angote - 2025 to date
- b) Amb. Stella Munyi - 2021 to 2025
- c) Amb. Lucy J. Chelimo - 2015 to 2021
- d) Amb. Josphine V. Awuor - 2010 to 2014
- e) Amb. John A. Abduba - 2006 to 2010
- f) Amb. Prof. Maria Nzomo - 2003 to 2006
- g) Amb. Dr. M.G.M Nyambati - 2002 to 2003
- h) Amb. Dr. Hukka Wario - 1998 to 2002
- i) Amb. Chirau Ali Makwere - 1993 to 1997
- j) Amb. Crispus M. Muema - 1990 to 1997
- k) Amb. John Aggrey Odongo - 1985 to 1990
- l) Amb. Philip N. Mbai - 1982 to 1985

2.3.2 Staff Establishment

24. The Kenya Mission's authorized staff establishment was as listed hereunder. However, the Foreign Relations Officer is yet to be deployed:

- (a) H.E. Gertrude Nyausi Angote - Head of Mission
- (b) Ms. Justine Ikumiru - Minister Consular/Head of Chancery
- (c) Mr. Edwin Mwalagho - Second Secretary
- (d) Col. Michael Riale Mtondonyang - Defence Attaché (Stationed in Pretoria, South Africa)
- (e) Ms. Delfina Kimathi - Administrative Attaché
- (f) Mr. George Kioko - Financial Attaché

25. Further, the mission is facilitated by the following ten (10) local staff:

- a) Mr. Blessing Kadira - Driver (Zimbabwean)
- b) Ms. Nyasha Hokonya - Receptionist/visa clerk (Zimbabwean)
- c) Mr. Dayson Pabgwaungana - Driver (Zimbabwean)
- d) Mr. Gift Maforo - Driver (Zimbabwean)
- e) Mr. Artmore Kapado - Messenger/cleaner (Zimbabwean)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| f) Mr. Trivashoma Matumba | - Gardener (Zimbabwean) |
| g) Ms. Makaita Muzondo | - Secretary/Receptionist (Zimbabwean) |
| h) Mr. Cathbert Changwara | - Cleaner (Zimbabwean) |
| i) Ms. Eva Angote Akoolo | - Chef (Kenyan) |
| j) Ms. Violet Kagai Ombima | - Housekeeper (Kenyan) |

2.3.3 High-Level Visits Between Kenya and Zimbabwe

26. Kenya and Zimbabwe have had the following high-level visits over the last five years that have significantly contributed to strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries:

- i. In October 2025, President Emmerson Mnangagwa visited Kenya to attend the 24th COMESA Summit. During the visit, he also participated in discussions regarding regional integration and digital transformation.
- ii. In March 2025, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Hon. Soipan Tuya, EGH, the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Mrs. Askul Moe, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community, and other senior officials from various ministries and departments participated in the co-chaired ministerial meetings of the EAC and SADC. These meetings addressed matters related to peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- iii. In May 2024, President Mnangagwa attended the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit which was held in Nairobi. The summit theme was stimulating sustainable pro-poor productivity growth in African agriculture and to agree on an African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, as well as the Soils Initiative for Africa.
- iv. In April 2024, President William Ruto conducted a two-day State Visit to Zimbabwe, where he officially opened the 64th Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo and oversaw the signing of eight (8) new MoUs.
- v. In September 2022, President Emmerson Mnangagwa attended the inauguration of President William Samoei Ruto in Nairobi.
- vi. In March 2022, the 3rd session of JPCC was held in Nairobi, preceding a three-day State Visit by President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The meeting was co-chaired by officials, including Ambassador Frederick Shava, and focused on enhancing trade, investment, tourism, and bilateral agreements between the two nations. This event served as a precursor to the state visit, establishing the foundation for the seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) subsequently signed later that month.

2.3.4 Consular Matters

27. The Foreign Relations Officer generally operates under the title Consular Officer and renders the Consular Services to the Mission's clients. The consumers of the Consular Services are the Kenyans Diaspora, and the duties of the office include issuance of travel documents, processing of Police Clearance certificates, provision of no-objection letters for intended purposes such as marriages, expatriation of deceased Kenyans, and processing of birth certificates and other documents as needed. In addition, the Consular officer does consular visits to hospitals, prisons and other confinements and files reports as well as actions towards cases. Currently, there is no consular officer at the mission, and the role is currently being carried out by the Second Secretary or the Head of Chancery.
28. The mission conducted consular visits to Kenyans incarcerated in Chikurubi Maximum Prison and Khami Prison in Bulawayo over immigration offences. Additionally, the Mission continues to undertake consular visits, coordinated legal services and monitored court proceedings for two Kenyan men to appeal against a six-year sentence over the smuggling of bhang to Zimbabwe. The two lost the appeal and remained in Harare Central Prison.
29. The Mission facilitated the deportation of two Kenyans by processing emergency travel documents following their arrest over immigration offences for being in Zimbabwe without valid travel documents. The Mission engaged the Kenyan diaspora in contributing a one-way air ticket for a Kenyan lady who was being deported to Kenya.
30. In October 2024, the mission facilitated a Kenyan to repatriate US\$ 50,000 from a divorce settlement that was stuck in Zimbabwean banks since 2016, the incident was attributed to challenges of repatriating wealth in Zimbabwe.
31. In October 2025, the embassy successfully facilitated issuance of an emergency travel document to a Kenyan lady who had been mistreated by her husband in Zimbabwe. The lady was 18 years old when she travelled to Northern Cyprus in 2016, to pursue Tourism and Hotel Management at the Near East University. While in college, the father stopped financial support. She dropped out of college and got married to a Zimbabwean man. Both lost their passports and relocated to Zimbabwe in 2024 using temporary travel documents. Fortunately, she had her original birth certificate, which proved that she was indeed a Kenyan and the Mission coordinated with the Kenyan High Commission in Lusaka, who used a stamp/file number indicated behind the birth certificate to retrieve her passport number in reference to the lost passport from Kenya's immigration systems.

32. Additionally, the Mission is following up on a court case filed in October 2025 involving a Kenyan lady married to a Zimbabwean regarding custody of a child after dissolution of their marriage.

2.4 Bilateral Relations

33. Kenya and Zimbabwe maintain cordial diplomatic relations anchored on historical ties, high-level diplomatic engagement, and economic cooperation, particularly through the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC). Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) is a bilateral framework aimed at strengthening economic, political, and social ties, with a recent focus (February 2026) on upgrading the partnership to a Bi-National Commission.
34. To implement and strengthen the Cooperation between the two countries, seven key Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements were signed in 2024. The MoUs include:
- a) **Trade and Investment:** An MoU between Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) to strengthen economic and technological ties, along with an agreement between KNCCI and ZNCC.
 - b) **Agriculture and Livestock:** An agreement focused on food security, technology transfer, and research.
 - c) **Standards and Quality:** A framework for cooperation between the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ).
 - d) **Infrastructure and Transport:** A pact aimed at developing road transport infrastructure and promoting private sector investment.
 - e) **Labor and Mobility:** Cooperation in labor mobility and employment creation between the two states.
 - f) **Air Service Agreements:** The two countries are reviewing bilateral air service agreements to improve trade routes.
 - g) **Social and Technical Cooperation:** Agreements covering youth affairs, women's empowerment, education, health, and sports.

2.4.1 Labour Relations

35. Zimbabwe hosts an estimated 300 Kenyans who live and work across various sectors of the economy. Most Kenyans in Zimbabwe are engaged in the following sectors:
- a) Hospitality Industry,
 - b) Academia,
 - c) Financial institutions,

- d) International organizations,
- e) Entrepreneurs in various business sectors within Zimbabwe,
- f) Technical experts and specialists in fields such as agriculture and manufacturing; and
- g) Dependents residing in the country.

2.4.2 Trade and investment

36. The trade balance has consistently remained in favour of Kenya, for instance, in 2024, Kenya's exports to Zimbabwe totalled US\$20.84 million, while Zimbabwe's exports to Kenya were US\$10.49 million, with Zimbabwe experiencing a negative trade balance of US\$10.35 million in 2024. Primarily, Kenya's exports to Zimbabwe consist of chemical products, plastics, and animal fats, while the imports from Zimbabwe entail tobacco, corn and raw sugar.
37. These low trade volumes between Kenya and Zimbabwe are largely attributed to high logistical costs caused by poor transport infrastructure and indirect transport links, currency volatility due to high reliance on the US Dollar for payments, and high non-tariff barriers (NTBs). This can be mitigated through the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement, which streamlines customs procedures, reduces bureaucratic red tape, and increases transparency at border posts, adoption of the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) to bypass dollar reliance, infrastructural development on rail and road networks, and improving value addition in manufacturing to enhance competitiveness.
38. Other areas of Potential Opportunities include the pharmaceutical sector, agriculture and agri-processing, textiles and apparel and the Services Sector, such as tourism, financial services, and digital technology.

2.5 The Inventory and Finances

39. The Mission owns five premises comprising one chancery and four residences as follows:

a) The Chancery

The chancery is a government-owned property that was acquired in 1980, sitting on a 0.125-hectare piece of land in 95 Park Lane, Harare. The property is old-fashioned, with a dilapidated roof made of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) and with dangerously hanging gutters. Electricity and water supply were unreliable, and the Mission had to purchase and install a power generator and drill a borehole to enhance power and water reliability. Further, the Chancery needs painting, lift repairs, re-carpeting of access roads

and carpark, perimeter wall and electric wire repairs. Additionally, acquisition of basic essential equipment like air conditioners, printers and modern furniture is necessary to increase efficiency in service delivery.

b) The ambassador's residence

The ambassador's residence is a government-owned house sitting on 1.44 hectares of land at 43 Borrowdale Road, Harare. The residence is habitable. However, it's old-fashioned and requires re-carpeting of the access road and car park, garden and lawn landscaping, borehole drilling and water reticulation, roof, floors, windows, plumbing and painting, swimming pool repairs, gazebo construction, servants' quarters repairs and painting and repair of perimeter wall and electric wire.

c) The head of Chancery's residence

The head of Chancery's residence is a government-owned property sitting on a 0.379-hectare piece of land at 7 Alvord Road, Mt. Pleasant, Harare. The property is old and dilapidated and requires borehole construction, water reticulation and filtration, replacement of borehole submersible pump, general repairs and painting, swimming pool repairs, car park repairs, solar installation/maintenance, purchase of furniture, and repair of the perimeter wall and electric fence.

d) Administrative Attaché's residence

Administrative Attaché's residence is a government-owned property sitting on a 0.405-hectare piece of land at 54 The Chase Road, Mt. Pleasant, Harare. The property is habitable; however, it requires general repairs and painting, solar installation, acquisition of new modern furniture and repair of the perimeter wall and electric fence.

e) Foreign Relations Officer's residence

Foreign Relations Officer's residence is a government-owned property sitting on 1.0184-hectare of land in 147 Rhodes Ville Avenue, Greendale, Harare. The property is old and highly infested with termites. It requires general repairs, roofing and painting, solar installation, repair of the perimeter wall and electric fence and urgent anti-termite control.

40. The embassy further has two rented premises. The two premises are the residences for the second secretary and the finance attaché. for US\$1800 per month, respectively.

41. The embassy operates with a fleet of four motor vehicles. Three of which were purchased between 2016 and 2019, respectively, are serviceable and in good condition, while the

Ambassador's official vehicle, which was acquired in 2015, is in fair condition and needs replacement to reduce maintenance costs.

42. In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Mission allocation for development was KES 10 million for the chancery roofing, driveway recarpeting, and borehole drilling at the residence. The mission received the first half allocation in the 2nd Quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year, amounting to KES 4,915,044.48. However, the embassy prioritized drilling and equipping a borehole and purchasing and installing a power generator at the chancery at KES 2,967,129.00 and KES 2,221,612.20, respectively. This saves on weekly water bills of approximately KES 46,000 and enhances power reliability at the embassy.
43. The mission received exchequer financing for the first and second quarters of the Financial Year 2025/2026, amounting to KES 31,683,279.78 and KES 20,458,760.16, respectively. Additionally, it received KES 11,026,794.00 as balance brought forward for the financial year 2024/2025.
44. Foreign exchange losses continue to affect the financial position of the Mission. In the 1st half of the Financial Year 2025/2026, the Mission incurred foreign exchange losses amounting to KES **1,086,404.5**. In the Financial Year 2023/2024, and 2024/2025 the losses amounted to **KES (6,422,836.44)** and **KES (1,933,302.10)** respectively. However, the Mission had no pending bills at the end of the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Table 1: Harare Foreign Exchange Losses (Amount in KES)

Head	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
Recurrent	(5,891,505.09)	(1,641,361.95)	(886,608.06)
Deposits	(531,331.35)	(291,940.15)	(114,840.92)
Development	-	-	(84,955.52)
Total	(6,422,836.44)	(1,933,302.10)	(1,086,404.5)

45. From Table 1, Foreign Exchange losses for both recurrent and deposits transactions in FY 2024/25 compared to FY 2023/24. This suggests favorable currency movements in FY 2024/25 compared to FY 2023/24.
46. As shown in Table 2, the approved expenditure estimates for FY 2025/26 amount to **KES.145.78 million**, with nearly half of the budget (47.86%) allocated to foreign service allowances, underscoring the priority given to supporting personnel abroad. Compensation to employees (19.38%) and education allowances (9.26%) together account for close to 30%, reflecting a strong focus on staff welfare. Moderate allocations are directed toward operations and maintenance, utilities, rent, foreign travel, and other operating expenses, ensuring the

continuity of essential functions. Smaller shares go to hospitality and domestic travel, while training receives no allocation, highlighting a potential gap in capacity building. Overall, the distribution emphasizes external service commitments and employee support, while raising concerns about the absence of investment in training and professional development.

Table 2: Zimbabwe Mission Approved Budget for FY 2025/26 (KES. Millions)

Expenditure Category	Approved Estimate 2025/26	Share of Total Budget
Compensation to Employees	28.25	19.38%
Domestic Travel	1.63	1.12%
Education Allowance	13.50	9.26%
Foreign Service Allowance	69.76	47.86%
Foreign Travel	4.17	2.86%
Hospitality	2.26	1.55%
O&M	9.69	6.65%
Other Operating Expenses	5.71	3.92%
Rent	4.55	3.12%
Training	0.00	0.00%
Utilities	6.27	4.30%
Total Budget	145.78	100.00%

2.6 Meeting with the Kenyan diaspora community in Zimbabwe

47. During the inspection visit, the delegation had an opportunity to meet with the Kenyan Diaspora Community in Zimbabwe on Tuesday, 25th November 2025 at Hyatt Regency, the Meikles Hotel, Harare.
48. The delegation was informed that there are approximately 300 Kenyans working and living in Zimbabwe with an association under the name KenZim. The membership is diverse and open to Kenyans living in various regions of Zimbabwe.
49. The Kenyans in Zimbabwe are mostly in academia, financial institutions, and international organizations; entrepreneurs in various business sectors within Zimbabwe; technical experts and specialists in fields such as agriculture and manufacturing; and students and dependents residing in the country.
50. The association is governed by an executive committee that works closely with the Kenyan diplomatic mission. The leadership roles being the Executive Committee, comprising a

Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, who oversee day-to-day operations and member registries and the Diplomatic Oversight, whereby the Kenyan Ambassador to Zimbabwe often serves as a patron or key collaborator to ensure the association aligns with official diaspora policies.

51. The association focuses on fostering the Kenyan community and providing a structured framework for Kenyan residents to interact with local and home-country institutions, with the main objectives of being:

- a) **Welfare and Social Support:** Providing a support network for Kenyans in times of need, including bereavement, legal issues, or emergency welfare.
- b) **Cultural Preservation:** Promoting and preserving Kenyan heritage and cultural identity through community gatherings and national holiday celebrations.
- c) **Socio-Economic Empowerment:** Creating a platform for social cohesion and strengthening economic bonds among members.
- d) **Liaison with Authorities:** Acting as a primary link between the Kenyan community and the **Kenyan Embassy in Harare**, as well as the Zimbabwean government, to address administrative and diplomatic concerns.

52. Despite acknowledging and appreciating the impact of the roadmap set by Ambassador Gertrude Angote on matters of welfare and service delivery, KenZim noted that the Chancery is old-fashioned and embarrassing compared to those of other East African Countries in Harare, thereby negatively affecting the image of the country.

53. KenZim identified key challenges impacting Kenyans living in Zimbabwe, affecting their social and economic well-being, which included:

- a) The Kenyan embassy lacks essential equipment, such as biometric fingerprint scanners for passport renewal, forcing Kenyans to travel to Kenya, which is costly and time-consuming.
- b) The Zimbabwean government does not issue residential permits or grant citizenship to Kenyan women married to Zimbabweans or to long-term Kenyan residents in Zimbabwe.
- c) A daily remittance limit of US\$500 imposed by Zimbabwe affects financial transactions for Kenyans abroad.
- d) The embassy's facilities do not support democratic participation, with voting restricted to presidential elections. Challenges include budget limitations, mistrust, and security concerns related to technological infrastructure, which hinder electoral processes at diplomatic missions.

- e) Additionally, they raised concerns about Kenya Airways' reliability, leading them to consider alternative airlines. They also criticized the airline's staff at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport for insensitivity, resulting in customer dissatisfaction. Their recommendations included hiring more Kenyan staff to enhance service quality and improve customer relations.

2.7 Challenges faced by the Embassy

54. The Embassy continues to face the following challenges in the execution of its mandate:

- a) Insufficient staffing, notably the absence of key personnel such as the Foreign Relations Officer and Trade Attaché, hampers operational effectiveness.
- b) Delays in fund disbursement from the National Treasury thereby affecting project implementation and service delivery.
- c) Limited conference room capacity at the chancery restricts meetings to approximately 20 participants, impacting larger gatherings.
- d) Financial constraints impacting the execution of trade and investment promotion activities in Zimbabwe.
- e) Absence of a structured system to track Kenyans residing and working in Zimbabwe which impairs service delivery and diaspora engagement.
- f) Foreign exchange losses resulting in budget shortfalls, affecting program funding.
- g) The unregulated banking sector imposes high withdrawal charges of 3%, leading to unanticipated financial losses.
- h) Asset acquisition and disposal processes are lengthy due to compliance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.
- i) Water and power supply at staff residences are unreliable, affecting daily operations.
- j) The proximity of the chancery to a busy transport terminal, nearby churches, and the presidential motorcade creates a noisy and uncondusive work environment.
- k) Staff shortages lead to workload redistribution, reducing overall service efficiency.
- l) Lack of essential equipment like office printers, biometric fingerprint capture for passport renewals, an ICT system, air conditioners at the chancery and old furniture.

55. To mitigate these challenges, the Embassy proposes:

- a) That the Government should establish a dedicated budget line to support the overhaul of the chancery and renovate the residences of the embassy staff.
- b) Establishment of a joint commission to oversee the implementation of the MoUs signed between Kenya and Zimbabwe to identify and address the gaps in the Banking, manufacturing and mining sectors, which pose good opportunities for Kenyans.
- c) Harmonization of the EAC, SADC and COMESA policies, MoUs and agreements to promote trade and investments between the two countries.
- d) Installation of solar systems and drilling of boreholes at the residences to enhance power and water reliability.

3.0 THE KENYAN HIGH COMMISSION IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

3.1 Background Information

56. The Republic of Botswana, formerly Bechuanaland, is a country in Southern Africa. It is named after its dominant ethnic group, the Tswana. It is bordered by Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It is approximately 581,730 Sq km in size with a population of about 2,359,609 as per the 2024 national census. The capital city, Gaborone and serves as the seat of government and the major economic hub. Other major cities in Botswana include Francistown, Molepolole and Maun.
57. Botswana has a semi-arid climate, characterized by hot summers, with erratic rainfall and cold, dry winters. It is one of Africa's sunniest Countries with high temperatures often exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in summer and nights occasionally dropping below freezing point in winter.

3.2 Political Context

58. Botswana is an independent and sovereign state, a former protectorate of the United Kingdom, whose political system is democratic, with the president serving as the head of government and the head of state. The country has both a multiparty and a Kgotla system (Community engagement and participatory democracy blending modern and traditional elements in governance) based on the principles of consultation. The official languages of Botswana are English and Tswana.
59. The current 6th President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Advocate. Duma Gideon Boko assumed power after being democratically elected on 30th October 2024 and sworn in on 1st November 2024.
60. The Parliament consists of the National Assembly with sixty-one elected members, six nominated members by the ruling party and the advisory (Ntlo ya Dikgosi). The body has no legislative powers and only advises on Bills affecting tribal organizations, customary law and culture to ensure preservation of cultural heritage. The country conducts general elections every five years. The political party with 31 seats forms the government.

3.3 The Kenyan High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana

61. The delegation was received by Kenya's Minister/ Head of Chancery, Botswana, Mr. Simon Njenga Muiruri at the Chancery headquarters. The delegation was briefed as follows:

3.3.1 Establishment of the Kenyan High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana

62. Kenya and Botswana established bilateral relations immediately after Botswana achieved her independence in 1966. The Kenya High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana was established after initial non-resident accreditation via Lusaka, with a Kenyan consulate opening in Gaborone in December 1997, which was subsequently upgraded to fully-fledged High Commission status in 2001.
63. The core responsibility of the High Commission is to articulate Kenya's foreign policy, strengthen bilateral relations with Botswana in particular, provide consular services, economic and commercial and safeguard Kenya's national interests. The High Commission is also accredited to the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
64. Kenya and Botswana maintain fully-fledged diplomatic Missions at ambassadorial levels in each other's capitals, a reflection of the depth and importance of their bilateral ties. Ambassador Richard Okwaro opened the Consulate as its Consul-General and later oversaw its elevation to a fully-fledged High Commission in May 2001 and consequently served as the first Kenya High Commissioner to Botswana until January 2002. The subsequent High Commissioners are as follows:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| a) Amb. Sabdiyo Dido Bashuno | - | 2024 - date |
| b) Amb. Mohamed Shidiye, CBS | - | 2018-2023 |
| c) Amb. Jean W. Kimani | - | 2013-2018 |
| d) Amb. Daniel Sindiga | - | 2008-2013 |
| e) Amb. Charles Albert Mbaka | - | 2005-2007 |
| f) Amb. James Binsai Chepsongol | - | 2002- 2005 |
| g) Amb. Richard Okwaro | - | 1997-2002 |
65. The strategic objectives of the Mission include:
- To protect Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 - To enhance global and regional peace, security and stability.
 - To promote cooperation and collaboration between Kenya and Botswana in the fields of economics, business, trade and investment.
 - To facilitate the strengthening of bilateral relations between Kenya and Botswana.
 - To enhance diaspora engagement and provision of consular services.
 - To enhance public diplomacy, cultural heritage and stakeholder engagement.
 - To strengthen policy, legal and institutional capacity of the mission.

66. The core values of the Mission include patriotism, Integrity, good governance inclusiveness and professionalism.

3.3.2 Staff Establishment

67. The Kenyan Mission in Gaborone is served by the following home-based staff:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a) H.E. Amb. Sabdiyo Dido Bashuna | - Head of Mission |
| b) Mr. Simon Njenga Muiruri | - Minister/Head of Chancery |
| c) Ms. Dorothy K. Nthiwa | - Minister Counsellor |
| d) Ms. Lucy Wambui Njoroge | - Immigration Attaché |
| e) Ms. Louise Radido | - Financial Attaché |
| f) Ms. Sylvia Gregory | - Administrative Attaché |

68. The Mission is facilitated by the following local staff:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Ms. Emily W. Gichovi | - Receptionist/secretary |
| b) Ms. Faith W. Gichuki | - Clerk |
| c) Ms. Salu Medu | - Cleaner |
| d) Mr. Monthswari Oefile | - Utility Driver |
| e) Mr. Pelokgale Modisanyane | - Representational Driver |
| f) Mr. Joses Kirimi Maingi | - Chef |
| g) Ms. Joyce Anangisye | - Housekeeper |

3.3.3 Consular Matters

69. The Mission continuously provides consular services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Services provided include issuance of emergency travel documents; application of birth certificates; application of Kenyan IDs and certificate of good conduct; application of certificates of no impediment to marriage; authentication of Academic Certificates and Kenyan Documents; and Renunciation of Kenyan Citizenship.

70. Between February and June 2024, the Mission facilitated the repatriation of three Kenyans in distress and the remains of a Kenyan who died in Botswana. Further, the mission had facilitated the interment of a Kenyan national who passed on in Botswana in August 2022. The deceased had lived in Botswana for more than 20 years.

71. In April 2023, the Mission in collaboration with the Immigration Attaché resident in Pretoria, processed 77 E-passports for Kenyans in Botswana. Additionally, in March 2024, the Mission and officials from the State Department of Diaspora Affairs provided mobile consular clinics in Gaborone, Francistown, and Palapye, whereby a total of 102 Kenyans were served.

3.4 Bilateral Relations

72. Kenya and Botswana maintain relations through the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC), a bilateral framework established in 2001 to boost economic integration. The JPCC emphasizes collaboration in areas such as air transport, digital transformation, security, trade, investment, and education. The Kenyan High Commission in Botswana continues to support opportunities aligned with Kenya's development goals. Five JPCC sessions have occurred, most recently in Kenya in 2019.

73. In pursuit of these objectives, Kenya and Botswana have drafted various MoUs and agreements to strengthen bilateral relations. These include draft agreements on the avoidance of double taxation, defense cooperation, an MoU on combating corruption, police cooperation, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, a draft extradition treaty, transfer of prisoners, and MoUs on prison services, rehabilitation, education, science, and technology. These draft MoUs are scheduled for consideration and approval during the 6th session of the JPCC, which will be hosted in Botswana before the end of July 2026.

3.4.1 High-Level Visits Between Kenya and Botswana

74. Kenya and Botswana have had the following high-level visits that have significantly contributed to strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries:

- i) Between 22nd and 26th April 2023, former Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, E.G.H., made an official visit to the Republic of Botswana representing H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya at the Forbes Under 30 Summit Africa. The former Deputy President held a town hall meeting with the Kenyan Diaspora in Botswana, where engagement centered on opportunities for the Diaspora in Kenya and issues affecting the Diaspora.
- ii) In May 2023, Hon. Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala and Hon. Justice William Ouko of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya were in Gaborone for 7 days to attend the 10th Biennial Meeting of Commonwealth Educators.

- iii) Between 5th and 9th June 2023, the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana participated in the opening of a high-level session of the United Nations Assembly, held on in Nairobi, Kenya.
- iv) In October 2023, former Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Micro and Small Enterprise, Hon. Simon Chelugui EGH, during the 23rd Saving & Credit Co-Operatives Association meeting. The minister held talks with the President of Botswana at the sidelines. Over 20 Saccos from Kenya participated and this elevated Kenya's status in the sacco space.
- v) In February 2024, H.E Mokgweetsi Masisi, the President of Botswana, visited Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change.
- vi) In August 2024, Ms. Nancy Gathungu, CBS, Auditor-General, visited Gaborone, Botswana, in her capacity as the Chair of the Institutional and Technical Capacity Building Committee (ITCBC) of the African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI).
- vii) In November 2024, H.E. Kithure Kindiki, PhD, EGH, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, undertook a two-day official visit to the Republic of Botswana. The Deputy President was in Botswana to represent H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya at the Inauguration Ceremony of the 6th President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Duma Gideon Boko.
- viii) In January 2025, the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, Kenya's candidate for the position of AUC Chair, visited Botswana seeking support for the chairmanship position.

3.4.2 Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA)

75. Kenya ratified the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA), which entered into force in 2022. However, Kenya has requested a review of the BASA to renegotiate for the inclusion of both additional frequencies to Gaborone and new entry points to Francistown, Maun and Kasane. The review is critical in removing the stringent terms attached to 5th Fifth) Freedom Traffic Rights. Kenya Airways discontinued direct flights from Nairobi to Gaborone in November 2016 due to operational constraints attributed to low volumes of traffic on the route and limited airport operating hours at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport.

76. In late October 2022, the Mission facilitated Kenya Airways General Sales Agent (GSA), based in Mozambique but covering Botswana, to access the prospect of resumption of direct flights between Nairobi and Gaborone.

3.4.3 Labour Relations

77. Kenya and Botswana have had a strong, long-standing bilateral labour relationship established shortly after Botswana's independence in 1966. The two countries generally collaborate within regional frameworks, with professionals from both nations participating in SADC (Southern African Development Community) and International Labour Conference (ILO) forums. However, Legal Reform (2025) in Botswana has significantly modernized its labor laws through the Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2025. This Act was drafted with technical assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has received overwhelming parliamentary support.
78. In the labour sector, approximately 1,200 Kenyans are currently living and working in Botswana, down from 10,000 a decade ago. Most Kenyans are serving across various sectors, including consultancy, transport and education sectors. The reduction in number is occasioned by a significant drop in economic growth over the years and the government's pressure to deliver jobs to citizens as promised by the ruling party, thus unwillingness to grant and renew work permits. Despite the high qualifications of Kenyans in sectors like academia, lack of recognition of Kenyan professional qualifications in the health and legal sectors is largely due to the absence of mutual recognition agreements between the two countries.

3.4.4 Trade and investment

79. The trade balance between Kenya and Botswana is currently in favour of Kenya, as the volume of exports from Kenya to Botswana surpasses that of Botswana's exports to Kenya. However, there exists significant potential for improvement in Kenya's export performance within the Botswana market. Kenya's primary exports to Botswana comprise pharmaceutical products, spark ignition engines, and textile products, while Botswana primarily exports motor vehicles and aircraft parts.
80. Trade volumes between Kenya and Botswana have decreased significantly. Kenyan exports to Botswana fell from US\$2.38 million in 2019 to US\$0.899 million in 2024, a 17.7% annualized decrease. Similarly, Botswana's exports to Kenya dropped from US\$0.873 million in 2019 to US\$0.277 million in 2024. However, despite low trade volume, the two nations maintain strong diplomatic ties, focusing on trade in coffee, tea, beef, horticulture, and mining.

81. Despite the opportunities available, penetrating the Botswana export market remains a challenge due to the stringent trade and investment environment by virtue of its membership in the South African Customs Union (SACU) with four other regional states (Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, whose restrictive policies have been a barrier to trade with countries outside the union, such as Kenya. To address these barriers, implementing a Regional Agreements framework such as COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) framework to lower tariff barriers and harmonize customs procedures.
82. Further, the Mission facilitated participation of Kenyan tourism players in the Africa Tourism Leadership Forum & Awards in October 2023. This development is expected to enhance trade, tourism, and investment relations between the two countries, thereby contributing to a more balanced trade relationship.

3.4.5 Education, Science and Technology

83. There is no existing framework for education cooperation. However, the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in Education, Science and Technology is pending consideration and conclusion during the 6th session of the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) to be hosted in Botswana in July 2026.
84. In September 2021, the Mission was invited and attended the 6th graduation ceremony of Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), where Kenyan professors were teaching. Further, in 2024, the Mission facilitated creation of a linkage between Moi University and the University of Botswana by facilitating a meeting between the Director, Institute of Open and Distance e-Learning, Moi University, Prof. Masibo Lumala, and Prof. Annah Molosiwa, PhD, Associate Professor & Head of Department, Department of Languages & Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Education, University of Botswana a clear indication of good education relations between the two countries.

3.4.6 Defence and Security

85. Security and military cooperation between Kenya and Botswana continues to strengthen, with both nations engaging in robust collaborations in intelligence sharing, training facilitation, and defence partnerships. Despite lack of an existing framework on defence and security cooperation, Kenya and Botswana have had a cordial relationship and collaboration in defence training. Between 2022 and 2025, the Mission has received five cohorts of senior Kenyan military personnel in Gaborone participating in various training courses in Botswana Defence

31 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

Forces staff training college in Gaborone an indication of a robust collaboration in defence and security relations.

86. The Office of the Defence Attaché based in Pretoria South Africa is accredited to six States in Southern African Region, including South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini and Zimbabwe to promote Kenya's defence interests. The office plays an important role in interpreting Kenya's defence policy while ensuring that national interests remain uncompromised. It also facilitates engagements between the Ministry of Defence and key stakeholders, coordinates defence outreach activities, advises the Head of Missions on defence-related matters, promotes Kenya's defence industry, facilitates emergency response efforts, and oversees the preparation of the Office's budget and procurement plans.

3.4.7 Sports and Culture

87. Despite the small number of Kenyans in Botswana, the Kenyan diaspora in Botswana continues to play an active and positive role in social and sporting activities such as football and athletics. In August 2022, two Kenyan youths, Mr. John Mark Makwata and Mr. Duncan Otieno, were signed in to Gaborone United Football Club for a period of two years while on 25th February 2023, three Kenyan Marathoners based in Botswana, Mr. Lazarus Too, Ms. Sheilah Jepkorir and Ms. Gladys Koech, took part in the Kazungula Bridge Marathon. The ladies, Ms. Jepkorir and Ms. Koech, emerged 1st and 2nd respectively in the women's category, while Mr. Too was 5th in the men's category.
88. Moreover, in February 2023, the Kenyan ladies' softball team participated in the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Africa Women's Qualifiers at the National Diamond, Gaborone. Further, Kenya participated and emerged third overall in the first Botswana Grand Prix on 29th April 2023 whereby a total of 11 athletes participated, including Ferdinard Omanyala, Africa's fastest man, who maintained his dominance in the 100 meters, signalling strong cultural and sporting relations.
89. The African group of Ambassadors held a cultural day event on 2nd June 2023 to commemorate the African Day which falls on 25th May. The event was held at Travelodge, was graced by the Foreign Minister of Botswana as the Chief Guest. Kenya showcased her rich food culture and served tea and coffee. Further, on 25th May 2024, the Mission participated in the Africa Day celebrations where it showcased the rich cultural heritage of Kenya.

3.4.8 Meeting with the parliamentary committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security, and Government Assurances Portfolio Committee (Parliamentary Relations)

32 | *Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Botswana, conducted from 24th - 28th November 2025*

90. The delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Parliament of Botswana and held a joint meeting with the counterpart parliamentary committee of the Republic of Botswana. It was received by the Hon. Dithapelo L. Keorapetse, MP, the Speaker of the National Assembly; Dr. Gabriel G. G. Malebang, the Clerk of the National Assembly; and honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security, and Government Assurances. The members shared experiences on the political status of the two countries, parliamentary composition, and operations and practices.
91. The delegation was briefed that:
- i. The president serves both as the head of state and the head of government.
 - ii. The political system blends British parliamentary traditions and the traditional Botswana chieftdom system.
 - iii. The legislature comprises a unicameral National Assembly of Botswana and the Ntlo ya Dikgosi, an advisory body of the tribal chiefs.
 - iv. The membership of the Committee on Intelligence and Security is appointed by the president rather than selected by the Committee on Selection.
92. Additionally, the Honourable members highlighted agriculture, tourism, ICT, air transport, and Youth, sports and culture as potential areas of collaboration.

3.5 Assets and Financial Matters

93. The Mission does not own any building and operates on seven (7) rented premises, inclusive of the Chancery and the official residence. The Mission has three utility vehicles, of which one is grounded.
94. The financial review of the Embassy in Botswana for the 2024/2025 financial year highlights notable variances between actual expenditure and ceilings for rent expenses for the foreign service personnel resulting to budget overruns for rent expenses. The overruns are for the Head of Mission (KES 15,561), Immigration Attaché (33,886) and Head of Chancery (KES 44,811). This was occasioned by rent revisions where the officers were residing. After writing to Headquarters in Nairobi, the officers were advised to relocate to residences whose rent is within their respective rent ceilings.

The following table presents the itemized monthly financial status of the Mission's rented properties:

No.	Designation	Monthly Amount (KES)	Ceiling (KES)	Budget Overrun (KES)
1.	Chancery	304,950.00	N/A	-
2.	Head of Mission	406,600.00	391,039.00	(15,561.00)
3.	Immigration Attaché	229,425.00	195,539.00	(33,886.00)
4.	Minister/counsellor	172,805.00	195,539.00	-
5.	Head of Chancery	240,350.00	195,539.00	(44,811.00)
6.	Administrative Attaché	190,000.00	195,539.00	-
7.	Financial Attaché	142,500.00	195,539.00	-
TOTAL MONTHLY		1,556,780.00		
TOTAL ANNUAL		18,681,360.00		
ACTUAL/PROPOSED		20,290,276.00		
AIE		18,933,980.00		-
DEFICIT		1,356,296.00		-

95. Operational expenditure absorption rates reflect efficient utilization in several categories, with foreign service allowances, internet, courier services, contracted services, and scholarships achieving 100% absorption. However, certain areas, such as motor vehicle insurance (31%), domestic travel (65%), and supply of computer accessories (66%) indicate underutilization. Conversely, residential rent (95%), catering services (100%), and maintenance of buildings (99%) demonstrate strong budget adherence. A detailed breakdown of the budget allocation, expenditure, and absorption rates for the 2024/2025 financial year is provided in *Annex I*.

96. The critical areas remained underfunded to the tune of KES 3.345 million in the 2024/2025 Financial Year, as indicated in the table below.

VOTE	ITEM	ALLOCATION	AMOUNT REQUIRED	DEFICIT
2640101	SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER EDUCATION BENEFITS-SECONDARY	608,654.00	2,254,350.00	- 1,645,696.00

2210405	SHIPMENT OF PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS	1,055,688.00	3,900,000.00	- 2,844,312.00
2211301	BANK SERVICE COMMISSION AND CHARGES	191,000.00	210,000.00	- 19,000.00
2210301	DOMESTIC TRAVEL COSTS {Airlines, Buses, Railway, mileage Allowance, etc}	193,309.00	630,000.00	- 436,691.00
2211016	PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS AND CLOTHING FOR THE STAFF	20,128.00	150,000.00	- 129,872.00
2210505	TRADE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS	49,941.00	140,000.00	- 90,059.00
2211305	CONTRACTED GUARDS AND CLEANING SERVICES	3,856,375.00	7,201,459.00	- 3,345,084.00

3.6 Challenges Faced by the Mission

97. The Mission continues to face several operational challenges that impede its ability to discharge its mandate effectively. These challenges include:

- (a) The mission has no government-owned premises and operates on leased properties, thereby increasing the operational cost of the mission. The current rent for the chancery and the official residence is KES. 350,000 and KES 420,000, respectively.
- (b) Insufficient office space. The Chancery is a residential property with strict conditions not to be partitioned.
- (c) The Embassy is experiencing infrastructural challenges such as aging furniture and office equipment at the chancery, the official residence, and the staff houses, negatively impacting the working environment and service delivery.
- (d) The Mission currently operates with only two utility vehicles, while the Ambassador's official vehicle is grounded. This has significantly hampered mobility and logistical operations.
- (e) Inadequate funding and delays in disbursement of funds by the National Treasury.
- (f) Foreign exchange losses resulting from conversion of KES) into USD before further conversion into Botswana Pula. In the first half of the 2025/2026 Financial Year alone, the conversion process resulted in a loss of **KES 1,978,023.44**.
- (g) High cost of living in Botswana resulting from currency devaluation, which is not factored in the budget process.

- (h) The rent ceiling policy for Mission staff premises in Botswana remains low, considering the market rates in Gaborone. This continues to exert financial strain on the Mission's operational budget.
- (i) The slow response time on the e-Citizen portal causes significant delays in the processing of essential documents such as certificates of good conduct. Applicants also face difficulties in applying for new certificates of good conduct and other government services on the e-Citizen portal, since payments can only be made through the e-Citizen platform, which is primarily administered in Kenya.

3.7 Meeting with Kenyans in Botswana (KEBODIA)-Association of Kenyans in Botswana

- 98. The Association of Kenyans in Botswana (KEBODIA) serves as a diaspora organization aimed at uniting, protecting, and empowering Kenyans living in Botswana, with emerging initiatives like KEYDA- Kenyan Youth in Botswana which fosters youth mentorship, community development, and professional networking. The association's mandate is anchored on three pillars which include Welfare and Support. This focuses on organizing and supporting Kenyans in Botswana through networking and community engagement; empowerment which entails promoting professional development, career growth, and mentorship among Kenyan youth and professionals; and Consular and Diplomatic Liaison: Working with the State Department for Diaspora Affairs and Kenyan diplomatic officials to protect the rights of citizens abroad.
- 99. The Kenyan diaspora community in Botswana highlighted the following as some of the challenges they are facing in Botswana:
 - a) High taxation of Kenyan businesspeople for imports from non-members of SADC,
 - b) High transport costs for people and goods to and from Kenya because there are no direct flights between Nairobi and Gaborone, resulting in connecting flights,
 - c) The requirement to capture biometric fingerprints to obtain physical smart driving licenses and valid driving licenses in Botswana,
 - d) Difficulties in filing of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) annual returns, resulting in the filing of nil returns,
 - e) Applicants incur significant expenses for document verification at the mission during work permit applications, as fees are charged for both authentication and certification processes.
 - f) Difficulties and inconveniences of entering Kenya with foreign-registered motor vehicles, including the high cost of carnet insurance services amounting to KES31k for a saloon car.

- g) Orange Network in Botswana has been stopping transactions for Kenyans on suspicion of being proceeds of a scam. It was noted that this was a control mechanism to deter huge sums of remittances from the country.

4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

4.1 General Observations

100. In addition to the foregoing observations, the Committee observes that: -

- (a) Kenya has signed multiple MoUs with both Zimbabwe and Botswana in trade and investment, education and research, and security, yet there are no structured mechanisms to ensure full implementation. The lack of an effective follow-up framework has resulted in slow progress in bilateral engagement between Kenya and the two countries in labour migration, trade facilitation, and investment cooperation.
- (b) The trade balance remains heavily in favour of Kenya. Kenya primarily exports pharmaceutical products while importing farm produce like tobacco and aircraft and motor vehicle spare parts from Zimbabwe and Botswana. Additionally, Kenyan businesspeople face challenges accessing Zimbabwe and Botswana markets due to stringent policies and regulations against non-member states of the regional blocs, such as SACU and SADC, poor transport networks, and limited capital access.
- (c) The Kenyan Missions in Zimbabwe and Botswana operate under severe financial constraints, limiting their ability to offer trade promotion services and diplomatic engagement. Delayed exchequer disbursements have led to inefficiency in service delivery. Foreign exchange losses during conversion from KES to USD and then to local currencies have resulted in significant financial losses for the missions.
- (d) Both Missions require modern premises for Chanceries to enhance operational efficiency.

4.2 Specific Observations - Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe

101. In its visit to the Embassy of Kenya in Harare, Zimbabwe, the Delegation made the following observations: -

- (a) The Kenyan Chancery in Harare was acquired in 1980, is old-fashioned and dilapidated. Specifically, the roofing and the gutters are completely worn out and made of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM), which has been banned by the World Health Organization for being carcinogenic. Other requirements include replacement of lift, floor repairs, painting and access roads and car park recarpeting.
- (b) The operational capacity of the Embassy is constrained by lack of crucial staff, such as the Foreign Relations officer and trade Attaché. Further, the representational vehicle, acquired in 2015, is old and has become expensive to maintain, necessitating replacement, lack of essential equipment like office printers, biometric fingerprint capture for passport renewals, ICT system. Additionally, the furniture at the Chancery and staff houses is old and requires urgent replacement to improve working and living conditions.
- (c) All four residential premises of the mission require refurbishment, power backup installations, and adequate water supply interventions.

- (d) The Kenyan Embassy in Harare has been instrumental in providing consular and legal services to Kenyans incarcerated in Zimbabwe, including the issuance of emergency travel documents for Kenyans between January and September 2025.
- (e) Kenya's trade balance with Zimbabwe remains heavily skewed in favour of Kenya. Between 2019 and 2024, Kenya's exports to Zimbabwe increased from US\$ 11.5 million in 2019 to approximately US\$ 26 million, an annual growth rate of 17.6% over the last five years of this period. While Zimbabwe exports to Kenya declined from US\$ 40 million to over US\$ 14.1 million, reflecting an annual decline of 19% over the same period. The fluctuation was primarily attributed to economic and currency instability in Zimbabwe, non-tariff barriers and logistical constraints, policy shifts and bilateral agreements, a shift in trade composition, and impacts of global and regional shocks.
- (f) Additionally, the absence of a structured system for documenting the number of Kenyans in Zimbabwe hampers effective diaspora engagement and service delivery.
- (g) Zimbabwe has not been granting residential permits and citizenship to Kenyan women married to Zimbabweans and those who have lived long in Zimbabwe, despite Kenya having granted citizenship to the Shona community from Zimbabwe.
- (h) The Mission was allocated KES 145.78 million recurrent budget in the 2025/2026 Financial Year, with KES 111.51 million being salaries and emoluments, KES 29.73 million operations and maintenance and KES 4.55 million rent. However, the Embassy has suffered foreign exchange losses amounting to KES 6.423 million in 2023/2024, KES 1.933 million in 2024/2025, and KES 1.086 million in the 1st half of 2025/26, significantly impacting financial stability.
- (i) KES 10 million for development in 2025/26, KES 5 million was disbursed and utilized in the sinking of a borehole and the purchase of a generator.

4.3 Specific Observations – the High Commission to the Republic of Botswana

102. In its visit to the High Commission of Kenya in Gaborone, Botswana, the delegation made the following observations: -

- (a) The mission does not own any premises in Botswana and has been operating on rented properties.
- (b) The representational vehicle, a Mercedes-Benz acquired in 2014 is grounded and efforts to fix it have not been successful.
- (d) Botswana hosts an estimated 1,200 Kenyan nationals living and working in the country. The number has progressively decreased due to stiffer immigration controls by the government, especially regarding issuance of work and resident permits. Further, lack of mutual recognition of Kenyan degrees and certifications in the nursing and legal fields continues to restrict access to professional job opportunities for Kenyan graduates.

- (e) The trade balance between Kenya and Botswana remains in favour of Kenya, which exports pharmaceutical products to Botswana, while Botswana primarily exports aircraft parts.
- (f) Despite the presence of Kenyan products, such as tea and coffee, in major supermarkets in Gaborone, Kenyan exporters continue to face challenges, including lack of direct flights between Kenya and Botswana and strict barriers to market entry attributed to SADC and SACU policies. However, Kenya has high potential and opportunities to export tea, coffee, fresh and canned fruits, fresh and dried vegetables, among others. These challenges hinder Kenya's ability to fully exploit the Botswana market and increase its export volumes.
- (g) Kenya Airways discontinued direct flights to Gaborone in 2016 due to operational constraints, such as limited airport operating hours at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport.
- (h) Kenya ratified the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) with Botswana. The agreement has been in force since 2022 and has requested a review of the BASA to renegotiate for the inclusion of both additional frequencies to Gaborone and as well as the new entry points of Francistown, Maun and Kasane. The review is critical in removing the stringent terms attached to (5th) Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights.
- (i) The Mission in Botswana is fully leased; the introduction of rental ceilings by the Ministry has forced the Mission staff to relocate to cheaper properties. However, annual rent increments in Botswana are not factored into the Mission's budget, leading to financial strain
- (j) The Mission operates under financial and logistical constraints that hinder its efficiency. It has outdated furniture and office equipment, which negatively impacts service delivery. The Embassy has only two functional utility vehicles, while the official representational vehicle is in a state of disrepair. These challenges negatively affect the Embassy's ability to carry out its mandate effectively.
- (k) The Mission's monthly and annual rental expenses exceeded the set budget ceilings. The annual lease expenditure of KES 20,239,560.00 surpassed the allocated ceiling of KES 20,084,208.00, resulting in a budget overrun of KES 155,352.00, contrary to the *Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 412A* as read together with the *Public Finance Management (National Government) Regulations, Legal Notice 34 of 2015*.
- (l) The total monthly and annual rent overrun for three of these properties is **KES 94,258.00** monthly and **KES 1,131,096** annually.

5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

103. The Committee recommends that: -

5.1 General Recommendations

104. The Committee made the following general recommendations:

1. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should: -
 - a. Collaborate with the National Treasury to: -
 - (i) Revise the Missions budget framework to account for *exchange rate losses and* in Harare and Gaborone, with adjustments included in subsequent budget cycles.
 - (ii) Review of the financial disbursement process to mitigate such losses, ensure timely disbursements, and uninterrupted operation of the missions.
 - (iii) Enhance Missions budgets to cater for construction of modern chancery facilities, diaspora and trade promotions in the two countries.
 - (iv) Implement *Foreign Exchange Stabilization Mechanism* to mitigate forex conversion losses impacting the Missions' operations and bank charges.
 - (v) 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. Replace representational vehicles, office furniture, and household furniture for staff and install ICT infrastructure at the missions to enhance service delivery.
 - c. Deploy trade attaches and Foreign Relations Officers to enhance service delivery.
 - d. Establish a Joint Bilateral Agreements Monitoring Unit to track the implementation and regular reviews of signed MoUs, to ensure that labour, trade, and investment agreements reflect emerging economic opportunities.
 - e. Appoint a Special Envoy for Southern African 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 such as renewal of passports to Kenyans in the diaspora.
 - g. Consider merging missions that are not economically viable to enhance operational efficiency and prudence by adopting multiple accreditations where necessary, rather than operating fully fledged missions that are not well facilitated.
2. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should collaborate with the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and engage the equivalent Botswana authorities to establish *Mutual Recognition*

Agreements (MRAs) to enhance the employability of Kenyan professionals in healthcare, legal, and other sectors in Botswana.

3. The Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry should: -

- a Collaborate with the Kenyan missions in Zimbabwe and Botswana to facilitate trade exhibitions and networking events aimed at creating awareness and marketing of Kenyan products such as tea and coffee in the two countries and the entire South African region.
- b Develop a ***Kenya-Zimbabwe/Botswana Trade Expansion Strategy***, focusing on value addition in exports and streamlined access to Zimbabwean and Botswana markets.
- c The State Department of Trade and Enterprise Development should deploy trade attachés to engage stakeholders and resolve market entry challenges.

5.2 Specific Recommendations – Embassy to the Republic of Zimbabwe

105. The delegation, having considered the above observations, recommends that:

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should:

- a Consider constructing a new modern facility for a chancery outside Harare Central Business District and renovating or demolishing and reconstructing the old property for commercial purposes. This approach would enhance overall infrastructure and operational efficiency.
- b Ensure adequate funding for the refurbishment and solar installations in all the government-owned premises in Harare, Zimbabwe.
- c In collaboration with the Embassy of Kenya in Zimbabwe, act with speed and ensure compliance with the Cabinet directive issued in March 2025 on the immediate removal of all asbestos-containing roofing materials from public and private buildings on embassy premises in Zimbabwe.
- d Spearhead collaboration with Zimbabwean authorities to develop banking regulations and policies to streamline the sector, build customer confidence, and create more opportunities in the banking sector.
- e Spearhead negotiations for the issuance of residence and citizenship for Kenyans in Zimbabwe.

5.3 Specific Recommendations – The High Commission to the Republic of Botswana

106. Having considered the above observations, the Delegation recommends that:

5. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the High Commission of Kenya in Gaborone, Botswana should:

- a. Prioritize the acquisition of a government-owned Chancery and residences to ensure long-term efficiency and prudence in resource utilization.

- b. Urgently replace the grounded representational vehicle to enhance efficiency.
 - c. Engage with the Counterpart ministry from the Republic of Botswana to unlock the stalemate on the renewal and issuance of work permits and resident permits to Kenyans.
 - d. Fast-track the review of the BASA to renegotiate for the inclusion of both additional frequencies to Gaborone and new entry points of Francistown, Maun and Kasane. The review is critical in removing the stringent terms attached to 5th Freedom Traffic.
 - e. Align the rental expenditure for the Kenyan Mission in Gaborone, Botswana, with the approved budget ceiling by implementing cost-containment measures 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.
6. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should collaborate with the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and engage the equivalent Botswana authorities to establish Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) to enhance the employability of Kenyan professionals in healthcare, legal, and other sectors in Botswana.
 7. The State Department for Transport should be embodied and deploy NTSA attaches in missions to facilitate issuance and renewal of driving licenses for Kenyans.
 8. The Mission should harmonize documents' certification and authentication charges.

SIGNED: DATE: 01/7/2026

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

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 02 JUN 2026	
DAY: Thursday	
TABLED BY:	Chairperson DC Defence, Intelligence & Foreign Relations
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Halima Ahmad

