




*Approved for tabling.  
SNA  
7/12/23*

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION – 2023

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

REPORT ON INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONDUCTED FROM 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY P.	
DATE: 07 DEC 2023	
DAY: Thursday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Thuku Member
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	A. Shibusko

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

DECEMBER, 2023

PARLIAMENT  
KENYA  
LIBRARY



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	3
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....	4
LIST OF ANNEXURES.....	5
LEADER OF DELEGATION’S FOREWORD.....	6
1.0 PREFACE.....	7
1.1 INTRODUCTION .....	7
1.2 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE .....	7
1.3 OVERSIGHT .....	7
1.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP .....	8
1.5 COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT.....	9
1.5 DELEGATION.....	9
2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN KIGALI, RWANDA.....	10
2.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	10
2.2 VISIT TO THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN KIGALI, RWANDA .....	10
2.2.1 <i>Staff Establishment</i> .....	11
2.2.2 <i>Immigration Matters</i> .....	11
2.2.3 <i>Defence and Intelligence Matters</i> .....	12
2.2.4 <i>Financial Matters</i> .....	12
2.2.5 <i>Political matters</i> .....	12
2.2.6 <i>Challenges faced in the High Commission</i> .....	12
2.2.7 <i>Meeting with the Rwandan Defence Committee</i> .....	13
3.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO .....	14
3.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	14
3.2 VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO .....	15
3.2.1 <i>Staff Establishment</i> .....	15
3.2.2 <i>Defence and Intelligence Matters</i> .....	15
3.2.3 <i>Financial and Administration Matters</i> .....	15
3.2.3 <i>Challenges Faced in the Embassy</i> .....	15
4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS .....	17
4.1 THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.....	17
4.2 THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO .....	17
5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AKR	Association of Kenyans in Rwanda
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EACRF	East African Community Regional Forces
KDF	Kenya Defence Forces
RDF	Rwanda Defence Forces

## 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

## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report documents a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs to Kenya's foreign missions in Rwanda and the DRC from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The aim of the visit was to assess the progress made, the challenges faced and the opportunities available in the Missions. The visit provided not only an opportunity for carrying out the Committee's oversight mandate, but also a learning environment for members of the committee on the thematic areas the Committee oversights.

The visit targeted two of the member states of the East African Community with a view of observing and inspecting the state of foreign missions in these countries. The delegation visited Kenya's High Commission in Rwanda (Kigali) from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 and thereafter Kenya's embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

Having visited, gotten briefings and inspected both chanceries and residences of the ambassadors, the delegation made the following recommendations:

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms of dealing with foreign exchange losses incurred by Kenya's diplomatic missions upon disbursement of their budgets from the headquarters as such losses erode the approved budget allocation.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms for curbing inordinate delays in processing the salaries and allowances for the staff deployed from other Ministries to Embassies. Such delays affect staff morale and service delivery. The Ministry should also consider revising the salaries of the staff in the embassies due to high inflation.
- 3) Kenya's diplomatic missions should expeditiously embrace the advisory on a rent-to-buy scheme for residential properties for Embassy staff as this would in the long term save the high costs incurred in rent payments.
- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should device mechanisms to expand consular services offered at the Embassies in order to generate more revenue for the missions.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should spearhead the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report and report to the National Assembly on the implementation status within ninety (90) days from the date of adoption of the report by the National Assembly.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations on a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Committee to Kenya's diplomatic missions in Rwanda (Kigali) and DRC (Kinshasa) from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

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

**Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations**

## 1.0 PREFACE

### 1.1 Introduction

2. This report documents a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations to Kenyan Embassies in Rwanda and DRC from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The delegation visited the missions to assess the progress made, the challenges faced and the opportunities available in the Missions. The visit provided not only an opportunity for carrying out the Committee's oversight mandate but also a learning environment for members of the Committee on the thematic areas that the Committee oversees.
3. The visit targeted Member states to the East African Community. The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of seven (7) Partner States, comprising Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.
4. The EAC is home to an estimated 283.7 million citizens, of which over 30% is urban population. With a land area of 4.8 million square kilometers and a combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$ 305.3 billion, its realization bears great strategic and geopolitical significance and prospects for the renewed and reinvigorated EAC. As one of the fastest growing regional economic blocs in the world, the EAC is widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in various key spheres for their mutual benefit. These spheres include political, economic and social. At the moment, the regional integration process is in full swing as reflected by the encouraging progress of the East African Customs Union, the establishment of the Common Market in 2010 and the implementation of the East African Monetary Union Protocol<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.2 Mandate of the Committee

5. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations is established under the National Assembly Standing Order No. 216. The functions and mandate of the Committee include, among others, *"to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments."*
6. The Committee's subject matters are stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and are as follows: Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries including territorial waters, international relations, and veteran affairs.

### 1.3 Oversight

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

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eac.int/overview-of-eac>

## 1.4 Committee Membership

8. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations was constituted by the House on 27<sup>th</sup> 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, MP

Baringo Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, MP

Kamkunji Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, MP

Kinangop Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, MP

Suba North Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, MP

Sabatia Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP

Kajiado Central Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP

Shinyalu Constituency

**ANC Party**

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP

Kitui County

**WDM-K**

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, MP

Lagdera Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP

Imenti Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, MP

Nominated Member

**UDA Party**

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP

Saboti Constituency

**ODM Party**

## 1.5 Committee Secretariat

9. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

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

Ms. Clarah Kimeli  
**Principal Legal Counsel II**

Ms. Winfred Kambua Kilonzo  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Dr. Donald Manyala, PhD  
**Research Officer I**

Mr. Edwin Machuki  
**Fiscal Analyst III**

Ms. Roselyne Ndegi  
**Senior Serjeant-at-Arms**

Mr. Lenny Muchangi  
**Legal Counsel II**

Mr. Murimi Mwangi  
**Media Relations Officer III**

Mr. Kelvin Ng'ang'a  
**Research Officer III**

## 1.6 Delegation

10. The delegation that visited comprised of:

- 1) **Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP**
- 2) Hon. Joshua Kandie, MP
- 3) Mr. Lenny Muchangi

**-Leader of Delegation**  
-Member  
-Delegation Secretary

## **2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN KIGALI, RWANDA**

### **2.1 Background Information**

11. Kenya and Rwanda have enjoyed cordial bilateral relations since 1986 when Kenya opened its first Mission in Rwanda. However, it was temporarily closed in 1994 due to genocide and was reopened in 2001. During this time, Kenya and Rwanda signed the first General Agreement of Cooperation in 1979. Under the framework, the two countries have signed several Memoranda of Understanding in the following areas: Air Transport, Education, Agriculture & Livestock, Water & Irrigation Management, Cooperatives Development, Security & Governance, Civil Service, Immigration, Cooperation in the field of Correctional Services, Justice & Constitutional Affairs<sup>2</sup>.
12. Several Kenyan companies have invested in Rwanda, in various sectors, ranging from banking, Construction, Insurance, Aviation, Education, Agribusiness, tourism and hospitality. Over 10,000 Kenyans are living and working in Rwanda, represented by a strong umbrella body, the Association of Kenyans in Rwanda (AKR).
13. In 2022, Kenya recorded exports to Rwanda worth Kshs. 41 billion and imports worth Kshs. 3 billion with the balance of trade of Kshs. 38 billion in favour of Kenya. Kenya's main exports to Rwanda include petroleum products, medicaments, palm oil, iron sheets, footwear, soap, paper and cartoon boxes. Kenya's imports from Rwanda include raw hides and skins, coffee, tea, milk and cream<sup>3</sup>.
14. The Republic of Rwanda is a landlocked country in Central Africa and is the most densely populated mainland African country with a size of 26,338 square kilometers. Rwanda's economy suffered heavily during the 1994 genocide due to widespread loss of life, failure to maintain infrastructure, looting and neglect of important cash crops. However, the nominal GDP per capita stood at \$909.9 in 2022.
15. Rwanda is a country of few natural resources, and the economy is based mostly on subsistence agriculture by local farmers using simple tools. An estimated 90% of the working population farms, and agriculture constituted an estimated 32.5% of GDP in 2014. Farming techniques are basic, with small plots of land and steep slopes. Since the mid-1980s, farm sizes and food production have been decreasing, due in part to the resettlement of displaced people. Despite Rwanda's fertile ecosystem, food production often does not keep pace with population growth, and food imports are required. However, in recent years with the growth of agriculture, the situation has improved<sup>4</sup>.
16. In April, 2023, Kenya and Rwanda signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing 10 areas of cooperation including: Education, ICT, Gender and Child Development, Youth and Capacity Development, Correctional Services, Health, Diplomatic Training, Agriculture and Cooperatives. The two governments also agreed on addressing the issue of insecurity within the region in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **2.2 Visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda**

17. The delegation visited Kenya's High Commission in Rwanda (Kigali) from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The proceedings of the visit are recorded hereunder:

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://new.kenyahighcomkigali.org/kenya-rwanda/>

<sup>3</sup> Report on Mission Status of Affairs, Kenya High Commission, Kigali

<sup>4</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda#Economy>

18. On 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, in a meeting with the Mission staff led by acting H.E. Amb. Philip M. Githiora, the delegation was briefed on various aspects of the High Commission as follows:
19. The vision of the High Commission is, ‘An institution of excellence in facilitating mutually beneficial relations between Kenya and Rwanda’ while its mission is, ‘to advance mutually beneficial relations between Kenya and Rwanda in pursuit of Kenya’s foreign policy objectives and the Government’s Development Agenda.
20. The core functions of the mission include promoting peace and security; safeguarding Kenya’s interests in Rwanda and the EAC; strengthening economic cooperation, international trade, tourism and investment; enhancing Diaspora engagement and provision of consular services; and strengthen the mission’s institutional capacity.

### **2.2.1 Staff Establishment**

21. The staff establishment at the High Commission was as follows:
 

1) Amb. Philip M. Githiora	-	Acting High Commissioner
2) Mr. Stephen Wanjala	-	Foreign Relations Officer
3) Colonel Kelius Mwadime	-	Defence Attaché
4) Mr. Kenneth Goga	-	Immigration Attaché
5) Mr. Kahoro Kinaro	-	First Counselor
6) Ms. Ndaisi Kipanga	-	Second Secretary
7) Ms. Milcah Odeny	-	Finance Attaché
8) Ms. Beatrice Odembo	-	Administrative Attaché

### **2.2.2 Immigration Matters**

22. The immigration attaché explained that the mission offers consular services including processing of e-passports. However, he noted that the mission is not a passport issuing centre because they do not have the biometric equipment to register applicants for passport. The mission offers replacement services only since applicants have to register for passports in Kenya. He suggested that the government should equip the mission with the biometric equipment so as to enable the mission to issue new passports to applicants. The second challenge is that there is shortage of booklets which therefore cause delays in replacing passports. Additionally, since the consular services are offered online, many applicants are conned due to misleading websites.
23. The mission also issues emergency certificates to individuals whose passport documents are expired/lost/stolen while in Rwanda. The documents is an international recognized document for one-way travel back to country of nationality. There is also processing and issuance of e-visas to travelers from Rwanda and Burundi. On average, about 120 visas are issued per month.
24. The mission also assists Kenyans in processing retirement benefits after retirement. The challenge here is that there is no legal framework of portability of social security benefits within the EAC, therefore, one has to individually follow up on the same from the country they worked in.

25. The mission also facilitates the processing of birth and death certificates of Kenyans in Rwanda. Besides, it also facilitates the processing of police clearance certificate. However, the mission only captures fingerprints and sends to the head office in Kenya.
26. The immigration attaché suggested that the mission should be supported in order to offer more consular services such as facilitation of processing of driving licenses to Kenyans in Rwanda.

### **2.2.3 Defence and Intelligence Matters**

27. The Defence attaché noted several achievements made including: liaison with Rwanda Defence Forces, exchange programmes with RDF, facilitation of movement of Kenyan troops, military road convoy clearances and diplomatic over flight clearance follow-ups for military and VVIP aircraft and exploring future military training partnership with Rwanda. In addition, the defence attaché noted that there are students currently studying in Rwanda as well as instructors under the exchange programme. Kenya has also set up vacancies for cadet training in Rwanda.
28. The challenges here include: the RDF are slow in responding to requests from Kenya. This may lead to serious situations especially in cases of emergency such as evacuation of troops. The other challenge is that due to the ongoing situation in eastern DRC, there are many refugees coming into Rwanda. This is a serious security risk to Kenya. Further, the memorandum of understanding between KDF and RDF is yet to be fully operationalized. There is need for a push to operationalize this agreement.

### **2.2.4 Financial Matters**

29. The finance attaché talked about some of the challenges faced in the mission. First, is an issue with underfunding from the government. The budget for the finance year 2022/2023 proposed by the mission was Kshs. 228,915,500/=, however, the allocated amount was Kshs. 176,428,168/= with a deficit of about Kshs. 52,000,000/=. The other challenge is loss of money due to payment of rent in US dollars. The mission receives its money in the currency of US dollars therefore upon conversion there is loss of money due to the weakened shilling. Further, there is also the issue of delayed funding which paralyses some operations in the mission. As at the time of the inspection visit, the mission has not yet received their quarterly funds. There is some money generated from consular services, however, most of the services are online therefore there is no direct generation of revenue. Finally, there is delay in remuneration of attachés whereby there are delays up to 6 months since the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs was no longer directly paying the salaries.

### **2.2.5 Political matters**

30. The second counsellor/political officer described the role of the political officer which includes: handling of complaints from Kenyans in Rwanda. The majority of complaints are on cybercrimes, fraud and conning. The other role is to facilitate Kenyans seeking jobs in Rwanda including those seeking internships. Therefore, the mission identifies and lobbies for employment for those seeking employment opportunities. The mission also addresses cases of domestic issues between Kenyans and Rwandans who are married or are in relationships.

### **2.2.6 Challenges faced in the High Commission**

31. The acting High Commissioner, Amb. Githiora, noted that since July 2019, there had been no substantive High Commissioner to the mission.

32. The mission is paying rent of about 55,000\$ every month. However, the current market value of the property is about 700,000\$. Therefore, it is possible to acquire the property which is in a very prime location. There is also a shortage of local staff working for the mission. The reduction of drivers from 3 to 2 has greatly impacted the effectiveness of offering courtesies to visiting delegations. Further, the remuneration of staff is relatively low due to the high inflation in Rwanda which was up to 30% in 2022. There was also a challenge of non-tariff barriers which had reduced the appeal of Mombasa port leading traders to prefer alternative ports such as Dar es Salaam.
33. Another challenge was from the regional security dynamics which had strained relations between Rwanda and DRC. These have the potential to reduce trade across the region. Additionally, Kenya's deployment of troops in DRC under the EACRF complicated relations between Kenya and Rwanda. Further, inadequate funds allocated to the mission had affected the mandate of the mission in offering services to Kenyan citizens in Rwanda. In addition, the equipment in the mission was old and needed replacement therefore the allocation of funds should be sufficient to enable procurement of better equipment.
34. A further challenge relates to automation of consular services which had reduced collection on revenue for the mission therefore making the mission rely entirely on the exchequer releases. Similarly, there was inadequate budgetary allocation to support Kenyans in distress for instance Kenyans who are arrested and lack legal representation.

#### **2.2.7 Meeting with the Rwandan Defence Committee**

35. On 19th May, 2023, the delegation, accompanied by the first counsellor from the High Commission, met with the following Members of Parliament in Rwanda:
  - 1) Hon. Emmanuel Bugingo- Member of Parliament
  - 2) Hon. Alice Muzana - Member of Parliament
36. There was a briefing on the structure of the Parliament of Kenya including the number of Members of Parliament in the National Assembly, the committee system and the mandate of the Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Committee under Standing order 216.
37. The Rwandan Defence Committee also gave a briefing on the structure of their Parliament which is divided into the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies with 26 senators and 80 deputies. There are 9 Standing Committees. The Committee explained that they oversight ministries, specifically the Ministry of Defence and Interior and Ministry of Disaster Management. Additionally, the Committee analyses bills and draft laws. It also conducts budget hearings. The Committee also informed the delegation that Rwanda was the first country to achieve a high female representation with about 61% of Members of parliament being women. There was a discussion on how this was achievable and it was explained that the constitution requires at least 30% of elective positions to be women.

### 3.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

#### 3.1 Background Information

38. Kenya and DRC have enjoyed cordial bilateral relations since 1987 when Kenya opened its Mission in DRC. The Mission is accredited to three other neighboring countries namely: Central Africa Republic (CAR), Congo Brazzaville, and the Republic of Gabon. The Embassy is Kenya's first Diplomatic Mission in a French Speaking African country hence, its strategic bilateral position not only within the DRC but in the wider Great Lakes region and Central Africa. The DRC is a strategic partner of Kenya in many areas, particularly trade and security. Both countries are inhabited by significant Swahili speaking populations, Swahili is the national language in both countries. Kenya and the DRC share some cultural similarities. Kenya has also been a key partner in stabilizing Eastern DRC<sup>5</sup>.
39. Kenya and DRC signed five framework cooperation agreements covering several economic sectors, including security, defence, agriculture and maritime transport. Security and defence bilateral agreements were also signed separately to provide mechanisms for cooperation between Kenya and DRC in areas such as counterterrorism, immigration, cyber security, and customs and border control. The signed revitalized agreement on maritime freight is aimed at repositioning the port of Mombasa as DRC's main gateway which will streamline the handling of the country's transit cargo.
40. In 2021, there was the official launch of Equity BCDC, when the Equity Group Managing Director and CEO Dr. James Mwangi committed to working with officials from the two governments to facilitate the first trade mission.
41. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), also known as Congo-Kinshasa and formerly known as Zaire, is a country in Central Africa. By land area, the DRC is the second-largest country in Africa, after Algeria, and the 11th-largest in the world. With a population of around 112 million, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the most populous officially Francophone country in the world.
42. The history of DRC is unfortunately filled with conflict. Congo achieved independence from Belgium on 30 June 1960 and was immediately confronted by a series of secessionist movements, the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the seizure of power by Mobutu Sese Seko in a 1965 coup d'état. Mobutu renamed the country Zaire in 1971 and imposed a harsh personalist dictatorship until his overthrow in 1997 by the First Congo War. The country then had its name changed back and was confronted by the Second Congo War from 1998 to 2003, which resulted in the deaths of 5.4 million people. The war ended under President Joseph Kabila who governed the country from 2001 to 2019, under whom human rights in the country remained poor and included frequent abuses such as forced disappearances, torture, arbitrary imprisonment and restrictions on civil liberties. Following the 2018 general election, in the country's first peaceful transition of power since independence, Kabila was succeeded as president by Félix Tshisekedi, who has served as president since. Since 2015, the Eastern DR Congo has been the site of an ongoing military conflict in Kivu<sup>6</sup>.
43. In 2021, Kenya exported \$223M to Democratic Republic of the Congo. The main products that Kenya exported to Democratic Republic of the Congo were Rolled Tobacco (\$25.5M), Tea (\$23.7M), and

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kenyaembassyindrc.com/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid 6

Coated Flat-Rolled Iron (\$22M). During the last 24 years the exports of Kenya to Democratic Republic of the Congo have increased at an annualized rate of 6.06%, from \$54.3M in 1997 to \$223M in 2021<sup>7</sup>.

### **3.2 Visit to Kenyan Embassy in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo**

44. The delegation visited Kenya's Embassy in Kinshasa (DRC) from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 to assess the progress made, the challenges faced and the opportunities available in the Mission. The proceedings of the visit are recorded hereunder:

45. The delegation was briefed on the Embassy and its operations on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023 as follows:

#### **3.2.1 Staff Establishment**

46. The Mission's authorized staff establishment was as follows:

- 1) H.E. Dr. George Wanyonyi Masafu- Ambassador/ Head of Mission
- 2) Mr. Peter Owiti- Head of Chancery (Political Attaché)
- 3) Ms. Patricia Kimani- Foreign Relations Officer
- 4) Colonel Leah Yegon- Defence Attaché
- 5) John Maina- Financial Attaché
- 6) Erick Nabwana- Trade Attaché

#### **3.2.2 Defence and Intelligence Matters**

47. The delegation was briefed on some of the roles and responsibilities of the Embassy including, to: cover social-economic and political issues in DRC and advice headquarters with a bias to Kenya's interests; liaise with intelligence agencies and share critical information; offer logistical support during missions of rescue; offer specialized training programs on advanced security training to officers in the presidential guard in DRC; conduct security surveys; implement the defence cooperation agreement between Kenya and DRC; coordinate planning of events, travel and deployment of forces or dignitaries from Kenya; attending change overs of troops; and organize celebrations of Kenyans in DRC. Some of the challenges faced by the mission on Defence and Intelligence front include: limited responsiveness by DRC in defence and intelligence matters; the expansive nature of DRC makes it difficult to collect information; the Eastern part of DRC as well as the Central African Republic has security challenges; lack of professionalism and poor work ethics of officers in DRC; lack of an immigration attaché causes difficulty in processing consular services; and lack of capacity by DRC to patrol its own borders.

#### **3.2.3 Financial and Administration Matters**

48. The financial attaché noted some challenges faced in the mission: there is no distinct line budget for the 3 accredited missions in Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and Gabon; delays in exchequer releases; there is a language barrier between staff and locals since most DRC is majorly a French speaking country; there are some utility problems such as frequent power interruptions due to inadequate infrastructure.

#### **3.2.3 Challenges faced in the Embassy**

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-country/cod/partner/ken>

49. First, the mission is responsible for 4 countries namely, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Central African Republic. However, the budget allocated to the mission is not enough to enable the mission effectively discharge its mandate upon these 4 countries. Second, the mission has condemned residential properties whereas staff are paying high rent in poor housing facilities. Third, the relations between Kenya and DRC were not cordial at the time of the visit and was likely to get worse depending on which regime will take power during the elections scheduled for late 2023. This has escalated to security issues where Kenyans are targeted for example truck drivers.
50. Another challenge is an issue in procuring the title deed of the land where the mission sit on from the DRC government. This has been taken up to the Presidential level, however, there has been little progress in acquiring the same. There is a risk of losing the property if the status quo remains.
51. A further challenge was an accumulated lease fees of about 3 million dollars owed to the Kenya by DRC for leasing Kenya Airways planes. This had also been taken up to the Presidential level, however, there is slow progress in recovery of the money.
52. In addition, there are increasingly reports of conning of Kenyans who are looking to invest in various businesses by DRC locals. Unfortunately, most Kenyans shun from working with the embassy which is best placed to advise them on how to conduct business in DRC.
53. Finally, the instability in Eastern DRC continues to hurt potential business with DRC. Further, the involvement of Kenya through the EACRF has created mistrust and negative relations between Kenya and DRC.

## **4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS**

54. It was observed as follows:

### **4.1 The Republic of Rwanda**

- 1) Rwanda is one of the fastest developing countries in the world. This is majorly attributed to the national wide reforms, adopted after the 1994 genocide, whereby there is a very capable monitoring system that ensures discipline of all citizens. This discourages corruption and ensures revenue generation is good and projects are effectively implemented.
- 2) There is a pending appointment of the High commissioner by the President of the Republic of Kenya. Despite this, the acting High commissioner, Philip M. Githiora, has ensured proper running of the mission.
- 3) The consular services offered by the High commission in Rwanda are limited due to reliance on MDAs in Kenya. For instance, processing of police clearance certificates is only limited to capturing finger prints and an applicant in Rwanda still has to travel to Kenya to the Directorate of Criminal Investigation to finalize processing the same. There is also potential to increase the scope of consular services offered at the mission.
- 4) Defence cooperation between Kenya and Rwanda was still not fully operationalized.
- 5) There are frequent delays in exchequer releases to the mission. At the time of the visit, the mission had not yet received their quarterly allocation. Additionally, there is loss of money during exchange of currency since money is sent from Kenya in dollars.
- 6) There were inordinate delays in processing the salaries and allowances of the staff deployed from other Ministries to the Embassy. This was disconcerting to the staff and affected their service delivery. Additionally, the currently salaries of staff need revision so as to cater for high inflation in Rwanda which is up to 30%.
- 7) The High commission is located in a rental premise despite the potential of buying property with adequate budgetary allocation. This is despite other East African countries such as Uganda and Tanzania having their own properties.
- 8) There is a shortage of staff in the High commission especially drivers, thereby causing logistical challenges when there are a number of delegations visiting Rwanda at the same time.
- 9) There are few trade delegations that visit Rwanda despite the good trade relations between Kenya and Rwanda. In addition, the High commission needs a trade attache.
- 10) The Muganda initiative, similar to Kenya's 'nyumba kumi', has been very instrumental in fighting against terrorism and crimes.

### **4.2 The Democratic Republic of Congo**

- 1) There is a lot of potential for Kenya to invest in DRC. For instance, DRC imports most of its food whereas the country is agriculturally viable to produce enough food for its population of about 112 million.
- 2) The conflict in the Eastern part of DRC is unlikely to end soon. Due to the many players involved in the conflict and their interest in minerals, it shall be difficult to resolve the conflict.

- 3) The relations between Kenya and DRC have substantially deteriorated due to deployment of Kenyan troops in EACRF. This is because DRC views it as an act of support to the M23 rebel group and therefore an act of aggression against it.
- 4) There is need for an immigration attache who shall be responsible for coordination of consular services which generate income for the embassy.
- 5) The embassy in DRC serves 4 countries namely DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Central African Republic. However, the budget for the embassy to coordinate these 4 countries is insufficient. Further, the ambassador is yet to present letters of credence to Congo Brazzaville and Central African Republic.
- 6) Kenya does not have a title deed to the property where the embassy is located. There is need to ensure expeditious processing of the title by the DRC.
- 7) The residential properties for the ambassador and staff have condemned buildings which are in a bad state. This means that Kenya is incurring high costs of renting properties for the ambassador and staff.
- 8) DRC is a French speaking country therefore there is a language barrier between the locals and the staff of the embassy. There is a need to train staff in order to equip them with a working understanding of French.

## **5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

55. The Committee recommends THAT:

### **5.1 Broad Recommendations**

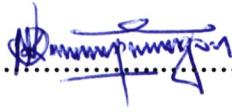
- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms of dealing with foreign exchange losses incurred by Kenya's diplomatic missions upon disbursement of their budgets from the headquarters as such losses erode the approved budget allocation.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms for curbing inordinate delays in processing the salaries and allowances for the staff deployed from other Ministries to Embassies. Such delays affect staff morale and service delivery. The Ministry should also consider revising the salaries of the staff in the embassies due to high inflation.
- 3) Kenya's diplomatic missions should expeditiously embrace the advisory on a rent-to-buy scheme for residential properties for Embassy staff as this would in the long term save the high costs incurred in rent payments.
- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should device mechanisms to expand consular services offered at the Embassies in order to generate more revenue for the missions.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should spearhead the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report and report to the National Assembly on the implementation status within ninety (90) days from the date of adoption of the report by the National Assembly.

### **5.2 Specific Recommendation – High Commission to the Republic of Rwanda**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry should deploy a trade attaché in order to facilitate more trade delegations from Kenya to Rwanda.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should make provision for recruitment of an additional driver in order to facilitate operations in the mission as well as visiting delegations.

### **5.3 Specific Recommendation – Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should expeditiously follow up on the process of acquiring the title to the property housing the Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 2) The Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo should devise strategies and mechanisms to ensure good relations with DRC and safety of Kenyans especially with the upcoming general elections set for December 2023 and the uncertainty of regime change.
- 3) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should enhance the budget allocated to the Embassy in DRC which serves 4 countries namely: DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Central African Republic.
- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with the Directorate of Immigration Services, should deploy an immigration attaché in order to facilitate more consular services at the embassy.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should expeditiously implement the renovation of residential buildings for staff and develop guidelines on development of commercial buildings which may generate more income to the Embassy.
- 6) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should develop guidelines on deployment of staff to non- English-speaking countries so as to prevent the challenge of language barrier.

SIGNED: .....  ..... DATE: 07/12/23 .....

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

**Annexure 1:**

**Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered  
and adopted the Report**





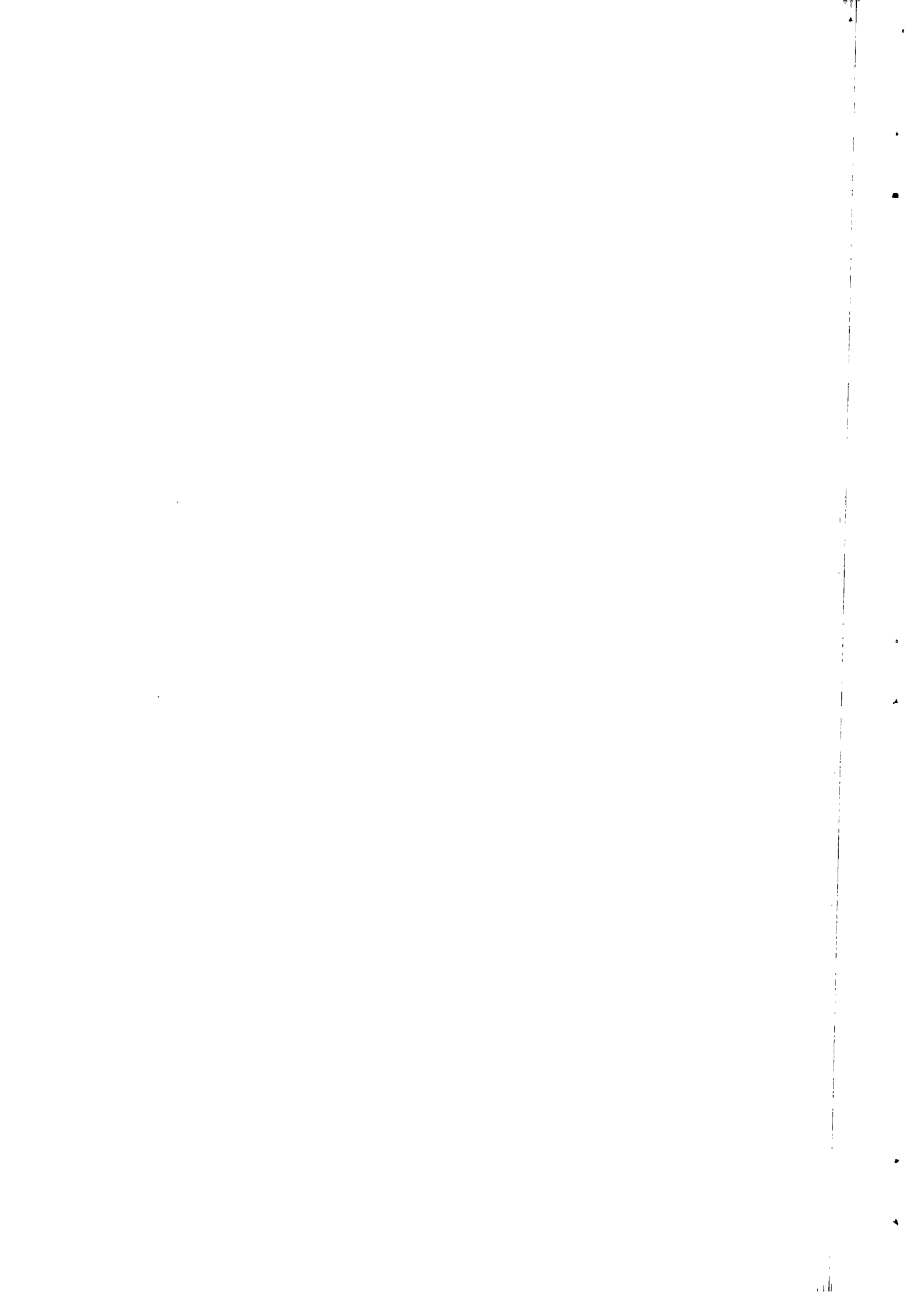
**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION - 2023**  
**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN**  
**RELATIONS.**

**REPORT ADOPTION LIST**

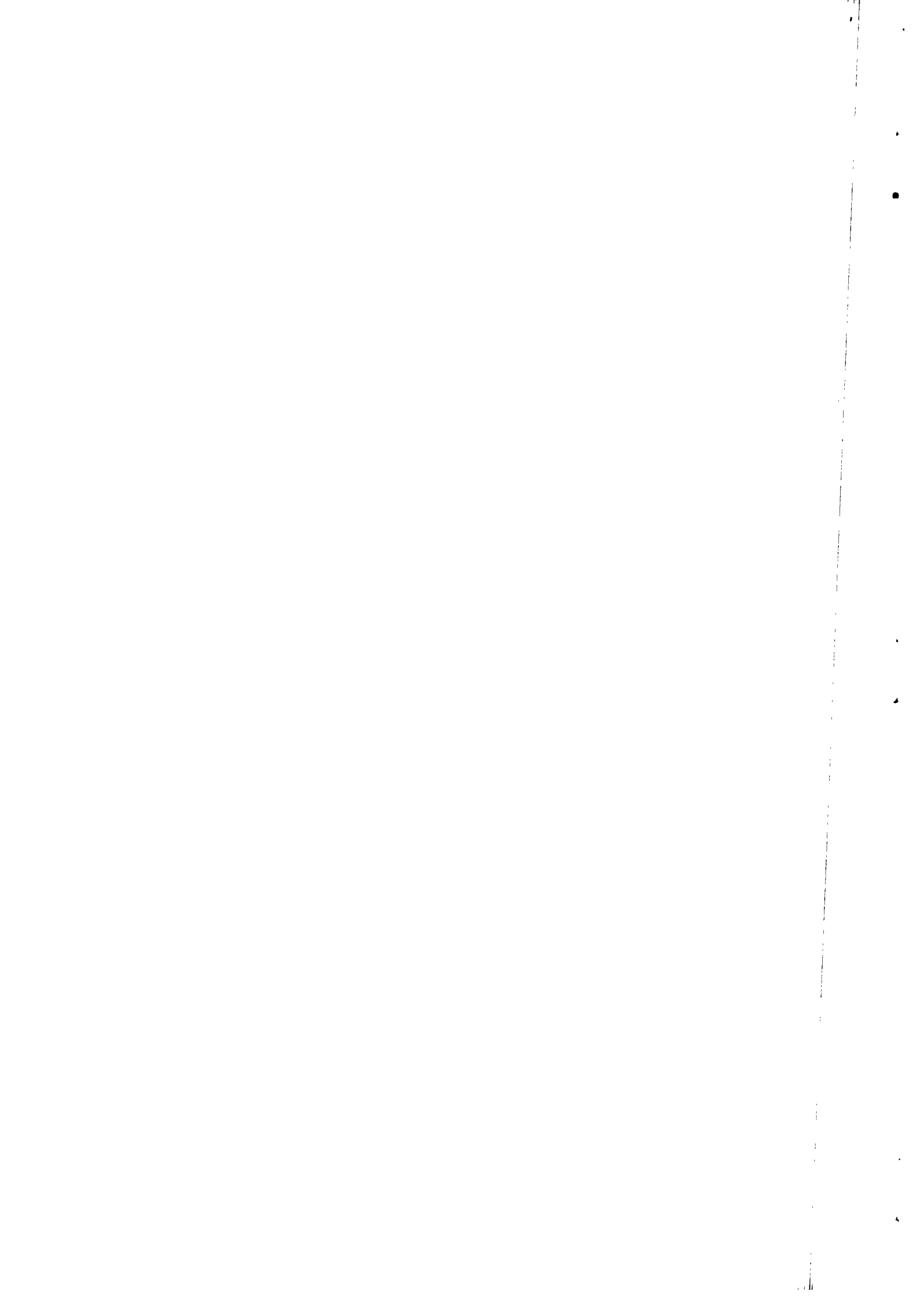
**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSIES  
IN THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF  
CONGO CONDUCTED FROM 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

We, the 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 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.**

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



**Annexure 2:**  
**Committee Minutes**





THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION - 2023  
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

MINUTES OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 10.00 AM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CONTINENTAL HOUSE.

---

**PRESENT**

1. The Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P. - Chairperson
2. The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. - Vice Chairperson
3. The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P
4. The Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, M.P
5. The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP
6. The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P
7. The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P
8. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P
9. The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P
10. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P
11. The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P

**APOLOGIES**

1. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, MP
2. The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P
3. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P
4. The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

- |                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Hon. Aden Duale      | - | Cabinet Secretary                       |
| 2. Brig. Edward Rugendo | - | KDF Chief of Operations                 |
| 3. Maj. Enock Mokaya    | - | Military Assistant to Cabinet Secretary |
| 4. Mr. Edwin Mwangi     | - | Parliamentary Liaison Officer           |

**THE SECRETARIAT**

- |                               |   |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Dennis Ogechi          | - | Clerk Assistant I   |
| 2. Ms. Winfred Kambua Kilonzo | - | Clerk Assistant III |
| 3. Mr. John Nganga            | - | Audio Officer I     |

- |                      |   |                             |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 4. Mr. Lenny Muchagi | - | Legal Counsel II            |
| 5. Mr. Kelvin Nganga | - | Researcher Officer III      |
| 6. Mr. Murimi Mwangi | - | Media Relations Officer III |
| 7. Mr. Antony Wamae  | - | Serjent-At-Arms III         |
| 8. Ms. Bernice Mali  | - | Intern                      |

## **AGENDA**

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda
2. Confirmation of minutes of the previous Sitting.
3. **Consideration and Adoption of the Report on an Inspection Visit to Kenyan Embassies in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023;**
4. **Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Defence regarding the Incessant terror-related attacks on KDF personnel.**
5. Any Other Business
6. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/314/2023:**

### **PRELIMINARIES**

The meeting was called to order at 10:29 a.m. and a prayer was said. The Chairperson then stated that the main agenda was:

- a) Consideration and Adoption of the Report on an Inspection Visit to Kenyan Embassies in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023
- b) Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Defence regarding the Incessant terror-related attacks on KDF personnel.

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/315/2023:**

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTING**

Minutes of the previous Meetings were confirmed as follows:

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Sitting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 were confirmed as a true record of the deliberations held after being proposed by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P and seconded by Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.

Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Sitting held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 were confirmed as a true record of the deliberations held after being proposed by Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP M.P. and seconded by the Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P

Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Sitting held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at 2.00 p.m. were confirmed as a true record of the deliberations held after being proposed by Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/316/2023:**

### **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSIES IN RWANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONDUCTED FROM 18TH TO 25TH MAY, 2023**

The Report on an Inspection Visit to Kenyan Embassies in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo conducted from 18th to 25th May, 2023 was adopted having been proposed by Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P and seconded by Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.

It was adopted with the following recommendations:

**Broad Recommendations**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms of dealing with foreign exchange losses incurred by Kenya's diplomatic missions upon disbursement of their budgets from the headquarters as such losses erode the approved budget allocation.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the National Treasury should device mechanisms for curbing inordinate delays in processing the salaries and allowances for the staff deployed from other Ministries to Embassies. Such delays affect staff morale and service delivery. The Ministry should also consider revising the salaries of the staff in the embassies due to high inflation.
- 3) Kenya's diplomatic missions should expeditiously embrace the advisory on a rent-to-buy scheme for residential properties for Embassy staff as this would in the long term save the high costs incurred in rent payments.
- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should device mechanisms to expand consular services offered at the Embassies in order to generate more revenue for the missions.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should spearhead the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report and report to the National Assembly on the implementation status within ninety (90) days from the date of adoption of the report by the National Assembly.

**Specific Recommendation – High Commission to the Republic of Rwanda**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should coordinate with the Office of the President in appointing a substantial High Commissioner to the High Commission in Rwanda.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with the National Treasury, should make provision for recruitment of an additional driver in order to facilitate operations in the mission as well as visiting delegations.
- 3) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with the National Treasury, should deploy a trade attaché in order to facilitate more trade delegations from Kenya to Rwanda.
- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should facilitate bench marking to Rwanda in order to investigate the best practices and mechanisms on fighting corruption.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should facilitate

**Specific Recommendation – Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo**

- 1) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should coordinate with the Office of the President in ensuring that the ambassador presents the letters of credence to Congo Brazzaville and the Central African Republic.
- 2) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should expeditiously follow up on the process of acquiring the title to the property when the Embassy is located from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 3) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the President, should devise strategies and mechanisms to ensure good relations with DRC especially with the upcoming general elections set for December 2023 and the uncertainty of regime change.

- 4) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should re-examine the status of the Embassy in DRC which serves 4 countries namely; DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Central African Republic. In doing so, the Ministry should consider the budget allocated to the Embassy for those 4 countries.
- 5) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in conjunction with the National Treasury, should deploy an immigration attaché in order to facilitate more consular services at the embassy.
- 6) The Ministry of Foreign and Diplomatic Affairs should expeditiously implement the renovation of residential buildings and develop guidelines on development of commercial buildings which may generate more income to the Embassy.
- 7) The Ministry of Foreign and Diplomatic Affairs should develop guidelines on deployment of staff to non- English-speaking countries so as to prevent the challenge of language barrier.

**MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/317/2023: MEETING WITH THE CABINET SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE REGARDING THE  
INCESSANT TERROR-RELATED ATTACKS ON  
KDF PERSONNEL.**

Hon Aden Duale, the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows:

1. The insecurity in Northern Kenya and parts of the Coastal region primarily emanates from the Somalia-based terror group Al-Shabaab and its international affiliates. This threat can be traced back to the Shifa War of the 1960s through to the 1980s, culminating in collapse of the Federal Government of Somalia in January 1991. The lack of a central government in Somalia created factions which have over time mutated into armed groups and criminal groups.
2. This eventuality was followed by a spate of insecurity in Northern Kenya and the Coastal region leading to increased attacks on the public as well as economic, security and critical infrastructure. It was on this premise that Kenya on 14<sup>th</sup> October 14, 2011 invoked Article 51 of the United Nations Charter (the right to self-defense), under the framework of the multi-agency Operation Linda Nchi.
3. There is notable increase in terror-related attacks in the Northern and Coastal regions, with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) emerging as Al-Shabaab's weapon of choice. The insecurity has led to fatalities and injury to both members of the public and security personnel. Additionally, equipment has either been damaged or destroyed.
4. Terror related attacks on KDF Personnel in Northern Kenya and Upper Coast is primarily an extension of Al-Shabaab terrorist agenda in Somalia with the intent of widening their political influence.
5. Finding comprehensive solutions to the stated multifaceted and complex challenges are essential for Al-Shabaab to be effectively neutralized. The primary mandate of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) is to defend the Country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, a role the KDF has discharged successfully over the years. However, the current reality is that the line between internal and external security is thin and hence the Government has embraced the multi-agency concept in the effort to provide comprehensive security to the public, by employing all security apparatus including the KDF and the National Police Service (NPS).
6. The involvement of KDF in counter-terrorism operations in the Northern and Coastal regions is in support of the NPS, as provided for in Article 241 (3)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Therefore, the following measures have been undertaken to mitigate terror attacks:

7. KDF Deployment in the North Eastern and Coastal Regions. KDF is operating in collaboration with the NPS and other Government agencies in the North Eastern and Upper Coast regions to deter the Al-Shabaab and its associates. Despite setbacks, the operations have been largely successful, by averting and deterring many potential attacks.
8. Enhanced Border Security. KDF in conjunction with other Government agencies have enhanced presence and visibility along the 700km common border with Somalia. However, owing to the border's porosity and an increasingly fluid security and political situation in Somalia, security gaps keep emerging, with corresponding response efforts being made by the security teams.
9. The Country's security architecture was increasingly seeking to dismantle terrorist networks in all its forms including financiers, sympathizers, operatives, and logistic infrastructure. Further, enhanced collaboration with regional and international partners has aided intelligence and information sharing in the war against terrorism, thereby enhancing the capacity to protect.
10. Wherever it is deployed, the KDF works very closely with the communities to create conditions for people to engage in socio-economic activities in areas vulnerable to Al-Shabaab influence, to mitigate recruitment and agenda propagation. Furthermore, our troops are under instructions to protect and work closely with local communities to deter infiltration of the Al-Shabaab. To this end, interventions include Counter-Violent Extremism (CVE) programmes, water provision and key leader engagement.
11. There were strategies to collaborate with communities living along the Kenya-Somalia border in the war against Al-Shabaab by denying them space to operate through information sharing. Kenya's security apparatus continues to pre-empt many would-be terror attacks. With more resources being dedicated towards force protection and sustainability.

**MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/318/2023:**

**OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee observed as follows:

1. That KDF helicopters were crashing at an alarming rate. There was need to review either the maintenance service provider or consider decommissioning those that are unserviceable.
2. There was need for robust collaboration between the Kenya Defence Forces and the National Intelligence Service in order to forestall terrorist plans and actions along Kenyan borders and within the country. This was more urgent considering the impending drawdown of the KDF from Somalia.

**MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/319/2023:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

SIGNED: .....  ..... DATE: ..... 24/10/23 .....

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

