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**KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
NINTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION**

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**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

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**REPORT OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE ON  
THE PETROLEUM POTENTIAL AND  
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EAST  
AFRICA**

**ON MARCH 2 TO 5, 2005**

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**Parliament Buildings  
Nairobi**

**June 2005**

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## **PREFACE**

**Hon. Speaker,**

- 1.** The Departmental Committee B. on Energy, Communications and Public works was constituted at the commencement of the Ninth Parliament pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 151 of the Kenya National Assembly. Standing Orders 151(1) 4 define the mandate of the Committee.
- 2.** The Committee is charged with the responsibility of inquiring into and reporting on all matters pertaining to the mandate, management, activities and administration of the assigned Ministries and Departments in the areas such as energy production and distribution, air and sea ports, transport and communications, among others.
- 3.** On March 1, 2005, the Committee resolved to attend the Petroleum Conference in Uganda necessitated by the fact that exploration and prospectivity in Kenya had declined and the poor utilization of available natural resources. The Conference was the second to be held in East Africa.
- 4.** The first International Conference on Petroleum Potential and Investment Opportunities in East Africa was organized under the auspices of the East Africa Community (EAC) and was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 2003 at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Hon. Speaker,**

5. Since then, the three Partner States of the East African Community of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have increased promotional activities for crude oil and gas exploration in the region. They have agreed on the need to provide an investment environment with low entry cost and large areas open for licensing. This Conference led to renewed interest in the region with a lot of activity picking up in exploration and development.
6. More than 100, 000 km of seismic data is available as at least 60 wells have been drilled to date and Oil exploration has been going on in the region intermittently for 70 years.
7. Sedimentary Basins of East Africa occur in settings similar to some of the world's most prolific oil producers. The region has about 15 major sedimentary basins covering more than 500, 000 sq. km.

**Hon. Speaker,**

8. Gas discoveries in Mozambique, Songo Songo and Mnazi Bay in Tanzania, Hydrocarbon discoveries in Lake Albert, Albertine graben in Uganda are evidence of the potential in Eastern Africa margins. The region is under explored yet it has the potential of becoming a significant producer of both oil and gas in the near future.
9. To give the promotion further impetus, the three countries held 3-day event dubbed the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Africa Petroleum Conference (EAPC2005) from March 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

