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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION (2026)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

....

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO THE KENYAN EMBASSY, RABAT – MOROCCO

22ND – 25TH MARCH 2026

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID

DATE: 28 JUL 2026	DAY. Tuesday
TABLED BY:	Vice-chairperson Hon. Maj. Bashir Abdullahi, MP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Benson Inzofu

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECEIVED
28 JUL 2026
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 41842-00100 NAIROBI

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

JULY, 2026

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	Amani National Congress
BASA	Bilateral Air Services Agreement
CBS	Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear
EAC	East African Community
KSh	Kenya Shilling
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
M.P.	Member of Parliament
NIS	National Intelligence Service
OCP Group	Office Chérifien des Phosphates Group
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
UDA	United Democratic Alliance
UDM	United Democratic Movement
WDM-K	Wiper Democratic Movement–Kenya

LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD

The establishment of the Kenya Embassy in Rabat represents a deliberate strategic shift in Kenya's foreign policy aimed at strengthening engagement with North Africa and the wider Arab Maghreb region. Although approved in 2018, implementation was delayed due to fiscal constraints, with the Mission becoming operational in January 2024. The transition from a non-resident accreditation through Cairo to a fully-fledged resident Embassy has significantly improved Kenya's diplomatic presence and effectiveness in engaging Morocco.

Since its operationalization, the Embassy has played a pivotal role in revitalizing bilateral relations. The accreditation of Kenya's first resident Ambassador in August 2024 marked a key milestone, catalyzing increased high-level exchanges, enhanced political goodwill, and strengthened institutional collaboration. This has resulted in the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding across priority sectors including trade, education, housing, and tourism, alongside the successful organization of the Kenya Economic Promotion Week in 2025, which deepened private sector linkages.

The Mission has effectively advanced Kenya's economic diplomacy agenda by positioning Morocco as a strategic partner for trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. In particular, engagement with OCP Group on the establishment of a fertilizer processing plant in Kenya presents a transformative opportunity to enhance agricultural productivity, reduce import dependence, and strengthen food security. Additionally, targeted efforts to expand Kenya's tea and coffee exports into the Moroccan market are contributing to export diversification amid disruptions in traditional markets.

Beyond trade and investment, the Embassy has facilitated meaningful capacity-building and knowledge exchange initiatives. These include specialized counter-terrorism training for Kenyan security personnel and access to Moroccan government scholarships in critical fields such as medicine, engineering, and law. Such initiatives have strengthened human capital development and reinforced people-to-people ties.

Despite these gains, the Mission faces significant operational and structural challenges. These include limited staffing levels, critical skill gaps (notably in translation and diplomatic support), language barriers, and financial constraints characterized by budget shortfalls and high recurrent expenditures, particularly on rent. Additional concerns include inadequate security coverage for staff residences, lack of permanent infrastructure, and connectivity limitations that hinder trade and logistical integration.

Strategically, Kenya's engagement with Morocco is increasingly informed by pragmatic considerations, including Morocco's growing influence within the African Union and its expanding economic footprint across Africa. The Embassy has already contributed to improved diplomatic alignment and enhanced cooperation in multilateral forums.

In conclusion, the Kenya Embassy in Rabat has delivered tangible diplomatic, economic, and strategic benefits within a relatively short period, demonstrating resilience despite resource constraints. However, to sustain and scale these gains, there is a critical need for enhanced investment in staffing, infrastructure, financial resources, and connectivity. Strengthening these areas will enable the Mission to fully execute its mandate and position Kenya as a key partner in North Africa and the broader Maghreb region.

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. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations undertook an oversight visit to the Kenya Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, in accordance with its mandate under Standing Order 216. The Committee is constitutionally mandated to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the management, administration, operations, and financial performance of assigned ministries and departments. In this regard, the Committee exercises a critical oversight role to ensure accountability, efficiency, and alignment with national policy objectives.

2. The visit formed part of the Committee's approved work plan for the 2025/2026 financial year and was designed to provide Members with a firsthand understanding of the operational environment of the Mission. Specifically, the Committee sought to assess the effectiveness of the Embassy in delivering its mandate, including the provision of consular services, the promotion of economic diplomacy, the management of financial and physical resources, and the identification of challenges affecting its performance.

3. The visit also provided an opportunity for Members to engage directly with Mission staff, appreciate the unique diplomatic context within which the Embassy operates, and deepen their understanding of Kenya's foreign policy priorities in North Africa and the wider Arab Maghreb region. This engagement was essential in informing future policy recommendations and budgetary considerations.

1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

4. 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

5. 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.*

6. 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

7. 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:

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(b) Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P. - Member
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2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY, RABAT – MOROCCO

2.1 Background to the Establishment of the Mission

10. The Kenya Embassy in Rabat was established as part of a deliberate and strategic realignment of Kenya's foreign policy towards enhancing engagement with North Africa and the Arab Maghreb region. This decision was informed by Morocco's growing geopolitical relevance, its economic strength, and its increasing influence in continental and global affairs.

11. Although Cabinet approved the establishment of the Mission in 2018, implementation was delayed due to financial constraints and competing national priorities. Preparatory activities eventually commenced in December 2023, with an advance team deployed to lay the groundwork for the Mission, including securing office space, setting up administrative systems, and establishing initial diplomatic contacts. The Embassy officially became operational in January 2024.

12. Prior to the establishment of a resident Mission in Rabat, Kenya's diplomatic relations with Morocco were managed through its Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. This non-resident accreditation arrangement proved ineffective due to geographical distance, limited engagement capacity, and logistical challenges that hindered consistent diplomatic interaction.

13. As a result, bilateral relations between Kenya and Morocco remained largely dormant for many years. The establishment of a resident Embassy in Rabat has therefore significantly enhanced Kenya's diplomatic presence in North Africa and provided a platform for more structured, consistent, and meaningful engagement between the two countries

2.2 Leadership and Staffing

14. The Mission was initially headed by a Chargé d'Affaires from December 2023, during the transitional phase of establishment, until July 2024, when Kenya's first resident Ambassador was posted to Rabat.

15. The Ambassador subsequently presented Letters of Credence in on 30th August 2024, formally accrediting Kenya's representation and signaling the full operationalization of the Mission. This marked a critical milestone in strengthening diplomatic relations between Kenya and Morocco.

16. The Mission's current staff establishment has six (6) home-based staff and eight (8) locally engaged as shown in Table 9 below. To implement this Strategic Plan and to effectively deliver

on its mandate, the Mission recommends staffing of all posts in line with the proposed staffing levels below:

Table 1: Staff Establishment of the Mission

NO.	Designation	CSG	Authorized	Optimal Staffing	In-post	Variance
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	Sub total		**8**	**8**	**6**	**2**
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17. However, several critical positions remain vacant, including those of translator, clerk, defence attaché, and foreign relations officer. These positions are essential for effective diplomatic engagement, administrative efficiency, and specialized functions such as defence cooperation and economic diplomacy.

18. The absence of these officers has placed significant strain on existing staff, who are required to perform multiple roles beyond their core responsibilities. This has inevitably affected the efficiency and responsiveness of service delivery at the Mission.

19. Communication challenges further compound these staffing constraints, as French and Arabic are the primary working languages in Morocco. In the absence of a dedicated translator, the Mission relies on limited internal capacity, including staff with basic language proficiency, which is not sufficient for complex diplomatic engagements and official documentation.

2.3 Diplomatic Engagement and Bilateral Relations

20. Despite being operational for a relatively short period, the Embassy has recorded considerable progress in strengthening bilateral relations. High-level engagements have increased significantly, including visits by Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and multiple Moroccan ministers to Kenya. Several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed across strategic sectors including trade, education, housing, and tourism. The Mission also successfully facilitated Kenya Economic Promotion Week in November 2025, which brought together key stakeholders from both the Kenyan and Moroccan private sectors to explore trade and investment opportunities.

21. The Embassy has also contributed to capacity building and knowledge exchange initiatives. Fifteen Kenyan law enforcement officers have received specialized training in counter-terrorism investigations in Morocco, while Kenya continues to benefit from approximately twenty scholarships annually offered by the Moroccan government in fields such as medicine, engineering, and law. Additional scholarships in religious studies have also been extended, supporting broader regional training initiatives. These programs have strengthened people-to-people relations and contributed to Kenya's human capital development.

2.4 Strategic Importance of Morocco

22. Morocco has emerged as a key regional and global player, particularly following its re-entry into the African Union in 2017. Its renewed engagement with Africa has been characterized by an active and deliberate foreign policy aimed at strengthening political and economic ties across the continent.

23. The country has pursued extensive diplomatic outreach, including numerous high-level visits by its leadership to African countries, aimed at consolidating its influence and expanding its partnerships.

24. Morocco has made substantial investments across Africa in sectors such as banking, telecommunications, agriculture, and manufacturing. Moroccan financial institutions and telecommunications companies have established a strong presence in West and Central Africa, while its industrial sector continues to attract major European manufacturers due to favorable trade agreements with both the European Union and the United States.

25. Notably, Morocco's Tanger-Med Port has developed into one of the leading global container hubs, handling millions of twenty-foot equivalent units annually and surpassing several long-established European ports. This level of infrastructure development presents significant opportunities for Kenya in trade, logistics, and maritime cooperation.

2.5 Economic Diplomacy and Trade Opportunities

26. Economic diplomacy remains a central pillar of the Mission's operations. Kenya is actively seeking to attract Moroccan investment, particularly in fertilizer production through the state-owned OCP Group, which is one of the world's leading producers of phosphates. Plans are underway to establish a fertilizer processing plant in Kenya, which would serve both domestic and regional markets within East Africa. This initiative has the potential to significantly reduce Kenya's reliance on imported fertilizer, lower agricultural production costs, and enhance food security.

27. In addition, the Mission is actively working to diversify Kenya's export markets, particularly for tea and coffee. Morocco represents a promising market due to its high consumption of these commodities. Engagements between Kenyan exporters and Moroccan buyers have already been initiated, including product testing and adaptation to meet local consumer preferences. These efforts are particularly important in light of disruptions in traditional markets such as Sudan and Iran, underscoring the need for market diversification.

28. However, the realization of these economic opportunities is significantly constrained by connectivity challenges. Currently, there are no direct flights between Kenya and Morocco, requiring travel through European or Middle Eastern transit hubs. This limitation has a direct negative impact on trade, tourism, and diplomatic engagement. While Kenya Airways has indicated operational constraints, including fleet limitations, efforts are ongoing to explore code-sharing arrangements and encourage Moroccan carriers to resume direct flights. The absence of direct air connectivity continues to undermine broader diplomatic and economic objectives.

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2.5 Economic Diplomacy and Trade Opportunities

26. Economic diplomacy remains a central pillar of the Mission's operations. Kenya is actively seeking to attract Moroccan investment, particularly in fertilizer production through the state-owned OCP Group, which is one of the world's leading producers of phosphates. Plans are underway to establish a fertilizer processing plant in Kenya, which would serve both domestic and regional markets within East Africa. This initiative has the potential to significantly reduce Kenya's reliance on imported fertilizer, lower agricultural production costs, and enhance food security.

27. In addition, the Mission is actively working to diversify Kenya's export markets, particularly for tea and coffee. Morocco represents a promising market due to its high consumption of these commodities. Engagements between Kenyan exporters and Moroccan buyers have already been initiated, including product testing and adaptation to meet local consumer preferences. These efforts are particularly important in light of disruptions in traditional markets such as Sudan and Iran, underscoring the need for market diversification.

28. However, the realization of these economic opportunities is significantly constrained by connectivity challenges. Currently, there are no direct flights between Kenya and Morocco, requiring travel through European or Middle Eastern transit hubs. This limitation has a direct negative impact on trade, tourism, and diplomatic engagement. While Kenya Airways has indicated operational constraints, including fleet limitations, efforts are ongoing to explore code-sharing arrangements and encourage Moroccan carriers to resume direct flights. The absence of direct air connectivity continues to undermine broader diplomatic and economic objectives.

2.6 Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

29. The Embassy has also contributed to capacity building and knowledge exchange initiatives. Fifteen Kenyan law enforcement officers have received specialized training in counter-terrorism investigations in Morocco, while Kenya continues to benefit from approximately twenty scholarships annually offered by the Moroccan government in fields such as medicine, engineering, and law. Additional scholarships in religious studies have also been extended, supporting broader regional training initiatives. These programs have strengthened people-to-people relations and contributed to Kenya's human capital development.

2.7 Connectivity and Logistical Challenges

30. The lack of direct air connectivity between Kenya and Morocco remains a significant barrier to fully realizing bilateral relations. Currently, travelers must transit through third countries—often in Europe or the Middle East, resulting in higher costs, longer travel times, and increased logistical complexity. This constraint negatively impacts trade, tourism, and diplomatic engagement by limiting the frequency and ease of interactions between the two nations.

31. Although efforts are underway to address this challenge through the negotiation of a Bilateral Air Services Agreement and the exploration of code-sharing arrangements, progress has been slow due to operational and commercial constraints within the aviation sector.

32. Kenya Airways has cited fleet limitations, while there is also a need to encourage Moroccan carriers to consider resuming direct routes. The continued absence of direct flights undermines broader economic and diplomatic objectives between the two countries.

2.8 Diaspora and Consular Services

33. The Kenyan diaspora in Morocco is relatively small, comprising approximately 150 registered individuals, the majority of whom are students. Other members include professionals working in international organizations, educational institutions, and sports federations.

34. The Mission provides consular services including documentation, emergency assistance, and repatriation support. It has also handled cases involving undocumented migrants attempting to cross into Europe, reflecting the Embassy's humanitarian responsibilities.

2.9 Financial Status and Constraints

35. Financial constraints remain one of the most significant challenges facing the Mission. Although the budget allocation has increased to approximately KSh 143 million for the 2025/2026 financial year, the Embassy continues to face pending bills amounting to approximately KSh 23 million. These include obligations related to rent, staff welfare, medical expenses, and operational costs. In some cases, officers have been compelled to meet essential expenses from personal resources to sustain operations.

36. The Mission's expenditure is heavily driven by high rental costs, estimated at approximately KSh 50 million annually for the chancery and staff residences. Budget allocations for rent have consistently fallen short of actual requirements, resulting in recurring deficits. Similarly, critical allowances such as the Foreign Service Allowance and education benefits for staff dependents are significantly underfunded. Medical cover was only recently introduced at a basic level, highlighting the vulnerability of staff welfare arrangements.

2.10 Infrastructure, Assets and Security

37. The Embassy currently does not own any property, with all premises being leased. Its asset base is limited to office equipment and a small number of vehicles. This situation reinforces the need for long-term investment in property acquisition to reduce recurrent expenditure and ensure operational stability.

38. Security remains another area of concern. Due to financial constraints, the Mission has prioritized securing the chancery while official residences remain without adequate security coverage. This exposes staff to potential risks and underscores the need for increased resource allocation.

2.11 Strategic and Policy Considerations

39. From a strategic perspective, Kenya's engagement with Morocco is informed by both geopolitical and economic considerations. Morocco's growing influence within the African Union and other multilateral institutions makes it an important partner for Kenya. Historically, relations between the two countries were influenced by ideological differences, particularly regarding the Western Sahara issue.

40. However, recent developments indicate a shift towards pragmatic diplomacy, with both countries increasingly aligning their interests in regional and international forums.

2.12 Conclusion

41. The establishment of the Embassy has generated measurable gains, including closer diplomatic alignment, expanded bilateral cooperation, and more effective engagement in multilateral fora. Notwithstanding these achievements, the Mission continues to operate under significant constraints, notably limited human and financial resources, language barriers, the lack of permanent premises, and insufficient connectivity.

42. Overall, the Kenya Embassy in Rabat has registered notable progress in advancing Kenya's strategic interests within a relatively short timeframe. It has contributed to the revitalization of bilateral relations, the promotion of trade and investment opportunities, and the strengthening of Kenya's footprint in North Africa. However, addressing the persisting challenges will be critical to safeguarding the Mission's sustainability and operational effectiveness. Targeted investments in staffing, infrastructure, and connectivity will be essential to enable the Embassy to fully execute its mandate and enhance Kenya's position as a credible and strategic partner in the region.

3.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

43. While conducting its oversight mandate during the visit to the Kenya Embassy in Rabat, the Committee observed as follows:

a) Staffing and Human Resource Capacity

The Kenya Embassy in Rabat is operating with significant staffing gaps, lacking critical personnel such as a Translator, Clerk, Foreign Relations Officer, and Defence Attaché. This shortage has placed an excessive workload on the limited available staff, leading to operational strain and reduced efficiency. The absence of a Translator has particularly hindered effective communication in a predominantly French- and Arabic-speaking environment, affecting diplomatic engagement and service delivery. Additionally, the lack of a structured staffing model during the establishment of the Mission has resulted in key positions not being filled from the outset, further compounding human resource challenges.

b) Financial Support and Budgetary Allocation

The Mission is facing persistent financial constraints due to inadequate budgetary allocations that do not reflect the actual cost of operations in Rabat, a relatively high-cost location. This has led to the accumulation of pending bills estimated at approximately KSh 23 million, indicating liquidity challenges and potential reputational risks with service providers. Furthermore, delays and insufficiencies in Foreign Service Allowances, medical cover, and staff welfare provisions have negatively affected staff morale and well-being. In some instances, officers are compelled to use personal funds to sustain essential operations, which is unsustainable and undermines institutional effectiveness.

c) Infrastructure and Asset Acquisition

The Mission currently operates without a permanent chancery or government-owned staff residences, relying heavily on rented premises. This has resulted in high and recurrent rental expenditures, which place a significant strain on the already constrained budget. The lack of permanent infrastructure also limits the Mission's ability to establish a stable and secure operational base. Additionally, the absence of a long-term property acquisition strategy for Missions in high-cost jurisdictions reflects a gap in strategic planning and asset management.

d) Air Connectivity and Transport Linkages

Air connectivity between Kenya and Morocco remains limited and inefficient, with no direct flights or formal Bilateral Air Services Agreement in place. This has created logistical challenges for travelers, increased travel time and costs, and reduced the frequency of exchanges between the two countries. The lack of code-sharing arrangements between Kenya Airways and Moroccan airlines further exacerbates the situation. These connectivity gaps hinder the growth of trade, tourism, and diplomatic engagement, ultimately limiting the full potential of bilateral relations.

e) Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion

The Mission's capacity to effectively promote trade and investment is constrained by the absence of a dedicated Commercial Attaché. These limits structured engagement with Moroccan businesses and reduces opportunities for market expansion for Kenyan exports such as tea and coffee. Additionally, delays in implementing strategic bilateral projects, including the proposed fertilizer processing plant in partnership with OCP Group, indicate slow progress in translating diplomatic relations into tangible economic outcomes. There is also a need to strengthen initiatives aimed at diversifying export markets and facilitating stronger linkages between Kenyan and Moroccan private sector actors.

f) Diaspora Engagement and Consular Services

The Mission lacks robust mechanisms for registering and engaging the Kenyan diaspora in Morocco, resulting in incomplete or outdated data on Kenyan nationals residing in the country. This limits the Mission's ability to effectively plan and deliver targeted services. Additionally, consular services are constrained by inadequate staffing and resources, affecting the Mission's responsiveness to cases involving undocumented migrants, distressed nationals, and emergency situations. These gaps weaken the overall effectiveness of citizen support services.

g) Security and Staff Welfare

Security arrangements at both the chancery and official residences are insufficient, exposing staff and government property to potential risks associated with diplomatic postings. At the same time, staff welfare concerns persist due to delays in payment of allowances, inadequate medical coverage, and limited support for dependents' education. These challenges negatively impact staff morale, productivity, and overall well-being, which in turn affects the Mission's operational effectiveness.

d) Air Connectivity and Transport Linkages

i. The Ministry of Roads and Transport, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, conclude negotiations on a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) between Kenya and Morocco.

ii. The Ministry of Roads and Transport, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, Kenya Airways, and relevant Moroccan aviation authorities and airlines, should, within eighteen (18) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, facilitate code-sharing arrangements to improve air connectivity between Kenya and Morocco.

iii. The Government should, within three (3) years of the adoption of this Report by the House, pursue the establishment of direct or near-direct scheduled passenger and cargo flights between Nairobi and Rabat or Casablanca to enhance trade, tourism, investment, and diplomatic engagement.

e) Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion

i. The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, deploy a Commercial Attaché to the Kenya Mission in Rabat to strengthen trade promotion, investment facilitation, and market access initiatives.

ii. The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within eighteen (18) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, fast-track negotiations and implementation of the proposed fertiliser processing plant in Kenya in partnership with OCP Group. The Kenya Mission in Rabat should continue supporting market diversification for Kenyan exports, particularly tea and coffee, and facilitate commercial linkages between Kenyan and Moroccan private sector actors.

f) Diaspora Engagement and Consular Services

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, establish and operationalise a structured diaspora registration and engagement framework through the Kenya Mission in Rabat to improve data management, consular service delivery, and emergency response. The Ministry should further provide adequate resources to strengthen consular assistance for undocumented migrants and Kenyans requiring emergency support.

g) **Security and Staff Welfare**

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, make adequate budgetary provision for comprehensive security arrangements for the chancery and official residences and ensure timely payment of Foreign Service Allowances, provision of comprehensive medical cover, and education support for eligible staff dependants.

h) **Policy and Strategic Engagement**

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, develop and implement a framework for sustained high-level bilateral engagement with the Kingdom of Morocco, including regular bilateral consultations, strengthened economic diplomacy, and enhanced participation in regional and multilateral forums. The Ministry should further adopt a more strategic and interest-driven approach to Kenya's engagement in North Africa, leveraging Morocco's geopolitical and economic position to advance Kenya's foreign policy and economic interests.

SIGNED: .... **DATE:** 28/07/26

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

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID
DATE: 28 JUL 2026
DAY: Tuesday
TABLED BY: Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Maj. Bashir Abdullahi
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE: Benson Inzofu

LIST OF ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE 1: SIGNED LIST OF MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE SITTING WHICH CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THE REPORT

ANNEXURE 2: MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION- 2026

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

REPORT ON

INSPECTION VISIT TO THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN RABAT, MOROCCO

22ND – 25TH MARCH 2026.

We, Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations, have pursuant to Standing Order 199, adopted this Report and affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity today, **Thursday, 2nd July 2026.**

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

ANNEXURE 2:

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
DC - DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

MINUTES OF THE 34TH SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON THURSDAY, 2ND JULY 2026, AT NOON, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 20, 3RD FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

1. **The Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P. - Chairperson**
2. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, CBS, M.P.
3. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.
4. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.
5. The Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P.
6. The Hon. Lagova Sloya Clement, M.P.
7. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

IN ATTENDANCE

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1.	Mr. Emmanuel Muyodi	-	Clerk Assistant I
2.	Mr. Bernard Njeru	-	Clerk Assistant III
3.	Mr. Martin Sigei	-	Research Officer III
4.	Mr. Salat Abdi	-	Principal Serjeant at Arms II
5.	Ms. Fridah Ngari	-	Media Relations Officer III
6.	Mr. Mark Mbuthia	-	Audio Officer
7.	Ms. Mary Kamande	-	Public Communications Officer III
8.	Mr. Alex Amwata	-	Hansard Reporter II
9.	Ms. Ifrah Musa	-	Attaché Clerk
10.	Mr. Khalid Abdi	-	Intern Clerk

AGENDA

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Communication from the Chair.
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting.
4. **Consideration and Adoption of reports on inspection visits to Kenyan diplomatic missions in:**
   i. **Morocco,**
   ii. **Egypt,**
   iii. **France and the United Kingdom**
5. Any other Business.
6. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting.

MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/164/2026: PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m. and prayer was said. The agenda above was unanimously adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.

MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/165/2026: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/166/2026: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REPORTS ON INSPECTION VISITS TO KENYAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

i. ***Report on inspection visit to Kenyan Diplomatic Mission in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco***

The Committee, having considered the report on the inspection visit to the Kenyan diplomatic mission in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, unanimously adopted the report with the following observations and recommendations having been proposed by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.

OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed as follows: -

a) Staffing and Human Resource Capacity

The Kenya Embassy in Rabat is operating with significant staffing gaps, lacking critical personnel such as a Translator, Clerk, Foreign Relations Officer, and Defence Attaché. This shortage has placed an excessive workload on the limited available staff, leading to operational strain and reduced efficiency. The absence of a Translator has particularly hindered effective communication in a predominantly French- and Arabic-speaking environment, affecting diplomatic engagement and service delivery. Additionally, the lack of a structured staffing model during the establishment of the Mission has resulted in key positions not being filled from the outset, further compounding human resource challenges.

b) Financial Support and Budgetary Allocation

The Mission is facing persistent financial constraints due to inadequate budgetary allocations that do not reflect the actual cost of operations in Rabat, a relatively high-cost location. This has led to the accumulation of pending bills estimated at approximately KSh 23 million, indicating liquidity challenges and potential reputational risks with service providers. Furthermore, delays and insufficiencies in Foreign Service Allowances, medical cover, and staff welfare provisions have negatively affected staff morale and well-being. In some instances, officers are compelled to use personal funds to sustain essential operations, which is unsustainable and undermines institutional effectiveness.

c) Infrastructure and Asset Acquisition

The Mission currently operates without a permanent chancery or government-owned staff residences, relying heavily on rented premises. This has resulted in high and recurrent rental expenditures, which place a significant strain on the already constrained budget. The lack of permanent infrastructure also limits the Mission's ability to establish a stable and secure operational base. Additionally, the absence of a long-term property acquisition strategy for Missions in high-cost jurisdictions reflects a gap in strategic planning and asset management.

d) Air Connectivity and Transport Linkages

Air connectivity between Kenya and Morocco remains limited and inefficient, with no direct flights or formal Bilateral Air Services Agreement in place. This has created logistical challenges for travelers, increased travel time and costs, and reduced the frequency of exchanges between the two countries. The lack of code-sharing arrangements between Kenya Airways and Moroccan airlines further exacerbates the situation. These connectivity gaps hinder the growth of trade, tourism, and diplomatic engagement, ultimately limiting the full potential of bilateral relations.

e) Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion

The Mission's capacity to effectively promote trade and investment is constrained by the absence of a dedicated Commercial Attaché. These limits structured engagement with Moroccan businesses and reduces opportunities for market expansion for Kenyan exports such as tea and coffee. Additionally, delays in implementing strategic bilateral projects, including the proposed fertilizer processing plant in partnership with OCP Group, indicate slow progress in translating diplomatic relations into tangible economic outcomes. There is also a need to strengthen initiatives to diversify export markets and to facilitate stronger linkages between Kenyan and Moroccan private-sector actors.

f) Diaspora Engagement and Consular Services

The Mission lacks robust mechanisms for registering and engaging the Kenyan diaspora in Morocco, resulting in incomplete or outdated data on Kenyan nationals residing in the country. This limits the Mission's ability to plan and deliver targeted services effectively. Additionally, consular services are constrained by inadequate staffing and resources, affecting the Mission's responsiveness to cases involving undocumented migrants, distressed nationals, and emergencies. These gaps weaken the overall effectiveness of citizen support services.

g) Security and Staff Welfare

Security arrangements at both the chancery and official residences are insufficient, exposing staff and government property to potential risks associated with diplomatic postings. At the same time, staff welfare concerns persist due to delays in payment of allowances, inadequate medical coverage, and limited support for dependents' education. These challenges negatively impact staff morale, productivity, and overall well-being, which in turn affects the Mission's operational effectiveness.

h) Policy and Strategic Engagement

Engagement between Kenya and Morocco is not being fully leveraged to maximize diplomatic, economic, and geopolitical benefits. There are gaps in sustained high-level engagements, regular bilateral consultations, and participation in strategic multilateral platforms. Furthermore, Kenya's approach to foreign policy in North Africa appears insufficiently targeted, limiting its ability to capitalize on Morocco's strategic position as a gateway to Europe and North Africa. This reflects the need for a more coordinated and interest-driven engagement strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the challenges identified and enhance the operational effectiveness of the Kenya Embassy in Rabat, the Committee recommended as follows:

a) Staffing and Human Resource Capacity

i. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, address the staffing gaps at the Kenya Mission in Rabat by deploying critical personnel, including a Translator, Clerk, Foreign Relations Officer, and Defence Attaché. These positions are essential for strengthening operational efficiency, improving communication in a linguistically complex environment, and enhancing Kenya's diplomatic and security engagement with the Kingdom of Morocco.

ii. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, develop and operationalise a structured staffing model for newly established Kenyan Missions to ensure that core positions are filled at the commencement of operations, thereby reducing over-reliance on limited personnel and minimizing operational strain.

b) Financial Support and Budgetary Allocation

The National Treasury should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, enhance budgetary allocations to the Kenya Mission in Rabat to adequately cater for outstanding financial obligations and operational requirements. This should include the settlement of pending bills estimated at approximately Ksh 23 million, full provision of Foreign Service Allowances, adequate funding for medical cover and staff welfare, and education benefits for staff dependants. The National Treasury should further ensure that future budget estimates for Kenyan Missions are aligned with actual operational costs, particularly in high-cost duty stations.

c) Infrastructure and Asset Acquisition

The National Treasury should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, allocate resources for the acquisition of a permanent chancery and staff residences for the Kenya Mission in Rabat. Further, the National Treasury, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, develop a phased diplomatic property acquisition strategy for Kenyan Missions located in high-cost jurisdictions to promote long-term sustainability and reduce expenditure on leased premises.

d) Air Connectivity and Transport Linkages

i. The Ministry of Roads and Transport, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, conclude negotiations on a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) between Kenya and Morocco.

ii. The Ministry of Roads and Transport, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, Kenya Airways, and relevant Moroccan aviation authorities and airlines, should, within eighteen (18) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, facilitate code-sharing arrangements to improve air connectivity between Kenya and Morocco.

iii. The Government should, within three (3) years of the adoption of this Report by the House, pursue the establishment of direct or near-direct scheduled passenger and cargo flights between Nairobi and Rabat or Casablanca to enhance trade, tourism, investment, and diplomatic engagement.

e) Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion

i. The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, deploy a Commercial Attaché to the Kenya Mission in Rabat to strengthen trade promotion, investment facilitation, and market access initiatives.

ii. The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should, within eighteen (18) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, fast-track negotiations and implementation of the proposed fertiliser processing plant in Kenya in partnership with OCP Group. The Kenya Mission in Rabat should continue supporting market diversification for Kenyan exports, particularly tea and coffee, and facilitate commercial linkages between Kenyan and Moroccan private sector actors.

f) Diaspora Engagement and Consular Services

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, establish and operationalise a structured diaspora registration and engagement framework through the Kenya Mission in Rabat to improve data management, consular service delivery, and emergency response. The Ministry should further provide adequate resources to strengthen consular assistance for undocumented migrants and Kenyans requiring emergency support.

g) Security and Staff Welfare

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, make adequate budgetary provision for comprehensive security arrangements for the chancery and official residences and ensure timely payment of Foreign Service Allowances, provision of comprehensive medical cover, and education support for eligible staff dependants.

h) Policy and Strategic Engagement

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, develop and implement a framework for sustained high-level bilateral engagement with the Kingdom of Morocco, including regular bilateral consultations, strengthened economic diplomacy, and enhanced participation in regional and multilateral forums. The Ministry should further adopt a more strategic and interest-driven approach to Kenya's engagement in North Africa, leveraging Morocco's geopolitical and economic position to advance Kenya's foreign policy and economic interests.

ii. Report on inspection visit to Kenyan Diplomatic Mission in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt

The Committee, having considered the report on the inspection visit to the Kenyan diplomatic mission in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, unanimously adopted the report with the following observations and recommendations having been proposed by Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.

OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed as follows: -

a) Consular and Services and Diaspora Welfare

i. The Kenya Mission in Cairo is executing a broad and complex mandate that spans diplomatic engagement, economic cooperation, diaspora management, and consular services across three countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, and Eritrea. Further, while the Mission has demonstrated commendable commitment and adaptability in delivering on its mandate, the scope of its responsibilities has expanded significantly without a corresponding increase in institutional capacity, staffing, and financial resources. This has resulted in a situation where the Mission operates under considerable strain, often prioritizing urgent consular and humanitarian interventions at the expense of long-term strategic engagements.

ii. The Mission has established strong linkages with the Kenyan diaspora and continues to provide essential consular services, including assistance in cases of arrest, detention, illness, and death. The Committee commends the Mission for its responsiveness, particularly in conducting prison visits and facilitating documentation services.

iii. However, the Committee further observed that the increasing number of Kenyans in distress, particularly those lacking proper documentation, has placed a heavy burden on the Mission. The absence of a dedicated consular emergency fund, legal representation mechanisms, and safe accommodation facilities has resulted in reliance on diaspora contributions to support affected individuals. The Committee noted with concern that detainees often lack access to necessities such as food and medical care, thereby necessitating intervention by fellow Kenyans and well-wishers.

iv. Kenyan nationals, particularly domestic workers and students, face significant vulnerabilities, including exploitation, discrimination, and gender-based violence. These challenges are compounded by limited legal protection and fear of reporting abuses due to possible reprisals.

b) Legal and Labour Frameworks

i The absence of finalized bilateral labour agreements between Kenya and countries of accreditation has exposed Kenyan workers to exploitation and poor working conditions. In particular, the Committee noted that a significant number of Kenyans in Jordan and Egypt are engaged in informal or unregulated employment, limiting their access to legal protection and social security.

ii Further, many Kenyans lack valid documentation, thereby increasing their vulnerability to arrest, detention, and deportation. The legal processes in such cases are often prolonged and inaccessible due to language barriers and lack of legal representation.

c) Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion

i. While the Mission is actively engaged in promoting trade and investment, Kenya's economic presence in Egypt remains limited and underdeveloped. Trade between the two countries is characterized by a significant imbalance, with Kenya exporting primarily raw commodities such as tea and coffee, while importing a wider range of manufactured goods.

ii. The existing frameworks such as the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) and Joint Trade Committees (JTC) have not been fully operationalized to deliver tangible outcomes. Opportunities for export diversification, value addition, and market expansion remain largely untapped.

iii. Egypt's strategic position as a regional logistics hub presents significant opportunities for Kenya, particularly in accessing markets in Europe and the Middle East. However, these opportunities have not been fully leveraged due to limited strategic planning and coordination.

d) Bilateral and Regional Relations

i. cooperation with Jordan is strong, there remains a gap in labour protection frameworks.Kenya enjoys strong diplomatic relations with Egypt, Jordan, and Eritrea, supported by high-level engagements and cooperation in areas such as security, education, and trade. However, these relations are not fully translated into measurable economic and developmental outcomes.

ii. The absence of a resident diplomatic mission in Eritrea limits Kenya's ability to effectively engage and capitalize on emerging opportunities in that country. Similarly, while defence

e) Infrastructure, Assets and Financial Management

i. Mission operates entirely from leased premises, including the chancery, the Ambassador's residence, and staff housing. This arrangement increases recurrent expenditure and limits long-term sustainability. Further, most of the Mission's equipment, including ICT infrastructure, are obsolete and requires urgent replacement.

ii. Financial constraints, including inadequate budget allocations and foreign exchange losses, significantly affect the Mission's operations. The absence of dedicated funding for consular services and diaspora welfare further exacerbates these challenges.

f) Institutional and Operational Challenges

i. The Mission faces multiple operational challenges, including staffing shortages, lack of specialized personnel, and harsh climatic conditions. These challenges have a direct impact on service delivery and the overall effectiveness of the Mission.

ii. The Mission is increasingly required to respond to complex humanitarian and security-related situations, including evacuation of distressed Kenyans from conflict zones, without adequate resources or institutional support.

g) Resilience, Unity, and Self-Organization

i. The Kenyan diaspora in Egypt has demonstrated a high level of resilience in navigating a foreign socio-economic and legal environment. Despite limited institutional support, community members have organically formed support networks that provide financial assistance, information-sharing, and emotional support.

ii. This unity has enabled them to respond collectively to crises such as medical emergencies, arrests, and deportation risks, reflecting strong social cohesion and adaptive capacity.

h) Improved Embassy Service Delivery and Engagement
The Kenyan Embassy in Egypt has made notable strides in enhancing its responsiveness and outreach to diaspora members. This includes more consistent communication, improved access to consular services, and greater willingness to engage with community leadership. These efforts have strengthened trust between the diaspora and the mission, although further scaling is needed to meet growing demand.

i) Persistent Legal and Documentation Challenges
A significant proportion of diaspora members continue to face challenges related to visa status, residency permits, and identification documents. These issues often result in vulnerability to arrest, detention, or deportation. The complexity and cost of regularizing documentation in Egypt further exacerbate the situation, highlighting the need for more structured bilateral interventions.

j) Healthcare Financing Gaps
Access to affordable healthcare remains a major concern. Many diaspora members lack insurance coverage and are forced to rely on out-of-pocket payments or community

fundraising during medical emergencies. This exposes individuals and families to financial instability and, in some cases, delays in accessing critical care.

k) Need for Organizational Formalization

While informal networks have been effective, the absence of a formally registered diaspora organization limits access to donor funding, partnerships, and structured engagement with institutions. Formalization would enhance accountability, transparency, and sustainability of diaspora-led initiatives.

l) Strategic Opportunity for Parliamentary Engagement

There was a growing recognition of the importance of diaspora issues within Kenya's legislative framework. Engagement with Parliament presents an opportunity to advocate for policy reforms, increased funding, and stronger institutional protections for Kenyans abroad. This can catalyze long-term systemic change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the challenges identified and enhance the operational effectiveness of the Kenya Embassy in Egypt, the Committee recommended as follows:

a) **Strengthening Consular Services and Diaspora Protection**

i. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, establish a dedicated Consular Emergency Fund to support Kenyans in distress abroad, including through the provision of legal aid, medical assistance, and repatriation services. Further, the Ministry should establish safe houses or temporary shelters for Kenyans facing abuse, exploitation, or displacement, with particular emphasis on protecting migrant domestic workers.

ii. The Committee further recommends the development of a comprehensive diaspora protection policy to address systemic challenges affecting Kenyans abroad, including legal support, welfare services, and reporting mechanisms for abuse and exploitation.

b) **Enhancement of Legal and Labour Frameworks**

i. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, fast-track the finalisation and implementation of bilateral labour agreements with Egypt and Jordan to safeguard the rights, welfare, and working conditions of Kenyan migrant workers. Additionally, the Government should strengthen legal support systems within Kenyan missions to provide legal representation, advisory services, and consular assistance to Kenyans facing legal challenges abroad.

ii. The Committee further recommends that the Kenya Mission in Cairo be designated as a registration centre for national identification documents and passports to facilitate access to essential government services and legal documentation for Kenyans residing in Egypt and the wider region.

c) **Strengthening Economic Diplomacy and Trade Promotion**

i. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for export diversification and market penetration in Egypt and the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The strategy should include measures to promote value addition, establish trade hubs, facilitate market access, and promote Kenyan products and services, including through Special Economic Zones.

ii. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, operationalize the Joint Trade Commission with Egypt and ensure the effective implementation of existing bilateral trade and investment agreements to enhance economic cooperation, increase bilateral trade, and promote investment between the two countries.

d) **Enhancing Bilateral and Regional Engagement**

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, expedite the establishment of a resident diplomatic mission in Eritrea to strengthen bilateral relations, enhance political and economic cooperation, promote trade and investment, and improve the delivery of consular services to Kenyans in Eritrea.

e) **Investment in Infrastructure**

The Committee recommends that the National Treasury should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, allocate adequate resources for the acquisition of diplomatic properties, including chanceries, official residences, and staff housing, to reduce long-term expenditure associated with leasing.

In particular, the National Treasury, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, should prioritize the acquisition of land and the development of a chancery and official residence for the Kenya Mission in Cairo to facilitate its relocation to the Diplomatic Enclave in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, in line with the Government of Egypt's directive requiring diplomatic missions to relocate within the stipulated timeframe.

Further, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should expedite the conclusion of ongoing land acquisition negotiations and ensure timely implementation of the project. Additionally, the National Treasury and the Ministry should develop and implement a strategic programme for the acquisition and ownership of diplomatic properties by Kenyan missions abroad, prioritising high-cost duty stations and locations of strategic national interest.

f) **Financial and Operational Constraints**

i. The Committee recommends that the National Treasury should, in the Financial Year 2027/2028, enhance budgetary allocations to the Kenya Mission in Cairo to enable the effective execution of its expanded diplomatic, consular, and economic mandate. In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the National Treasury should also institute appropriate financial safeguards, including mechanisms to mitigate the adverse effects of foreign exchange fluctuations on the operations of Kenyan missions abroad.

ii. The Committee further recommends that the enhanced budgetary allocation should provide for strengthened consular services, including healthcare assistance, legal aid, emergency response, and protection services for Kenyans in distress, particularly migrant workers. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should ensure that the Kenya Mission in Cairo is adequately resourced to deliver these services effectively.

iii. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within three (3) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, recruit additional personnel for the Kenya Mission in Cairo, including officers with specialized expertise in legal, labour, and consular affairs, to strengthen institutional capacity and improve the delivery of diplomatic and consular services.

g) **Strengthening Legal and Documentation Systems**

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, strengthen bilateral engagement with the Government of Egypt to streamline visa, residency, work permit, and identification processes for Kenyan nationals. The Ministry should, through the Kenya Mission in Cairo and in collaboration with the relevant Egyptian authorities, establish structured coordination and referral mechanisms to facilitate timely documentation, resolve immigration-related challenges, and reduce cases of arrest, detention, and deportation. Further, the Ministry should strengthen partnerships with legal aid organisations and other relevant stakeholders to enhance legal assistance and the protection of Kenyans residing and working in Egypt.

h) **Promoting Comprehensive Diaspora Registration**

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, establish and operationalize a structured and continuous registration framework for Kenyan nationals residing in Egypt. The framework should be implemented through the Kenya Mission in Cairo, in collaboration with recognized Kenyan diaspora associations and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure comprehensive registration and regular updating of embassy records. This will enhance data accuracy, facilitate effective planning and service delivery, strengthen consular protection, and improve the Mission's capacity to respond promptly to emergencies involving Kenyan nationals.

iii. *Report on inspection visit to Kenyan Diplomatic Missions in Paris, French Republic and London, United Kingdom.*

The Committee, having considered the report on the inspection visit to the Kenyan diplomatic missions in Paris, French Republic and London, United Kingdom, unanimously adopted the report, with the following observations and recommendations proposed by Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P., and seconded by Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.

OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed as follows: -

General Observations

1. The Committee noted that the Missions in Paris and London remain pivotal in advancing Kenya's bilateral, multilateral, and economic diplomacy.
2. Both Missions have achieved significant milestones, including defence cooperation agreements, support for Kenya's international candidatures, and facilitation of high-level summits.
3. Persistent challenges undermine effective service delivery, notably foreign exchange losses, delayed budget disbursements, and deteriorating infrastructure.
4. Diaspora engagement has improved through digital platforms and mobile consular services, though fragmentation in France limits cohesion compared to Portugal and Serbia.
5. Trade balances remain unfavorable in France and the UK, underscoring the need for stronger economic diplomacy and targeted export promotion.
6. Both Missions demonstrate innovation in consular service delivery but require enhanced resources and structural support to fully implement their mandates.

Specific Observations

(i) Paris Mission:

1. France remains Kenya's 5th largest investor, with relations strengthened through high-level exchanges, defence cooperation, and support for Kenya's international candidatures.
2. Accreditation to Portugal, Monaco, Serbia, and the Holy See expands Kenya's diplomatic footprint, though relations with Serbia were strained by Kosovo recognition.
3. Online appointment systems and mobile consular services have improved efficiency, but the diaspora in France remains fragmented.
4. The Chancery and Official Residence are in poor condition, requiring urgent renovations estimated at Kshs.145 million and Kshs.88 million respectively. Current allocations only cover urgent repairs.
5. Trade balance favors France (exports USD 113m vs imports USD 235m), despite facilitation of business delegations and tourism promotion.

(ii) London Mission:

1. UK has a huge Kenyan Diaspora Community that is very organized. This was witnessed during the engagement of the delegation with the Community, where they even have regional representatives and leaders.
2. Foreign exchange losses due to budgeting in one currency and execution in another significantly reduce effective spending power.
3. The acquisition of the London Chancery is a value-for-money investment that Kenya has made because it presents significant benefits, particularly in terms of asset appreciation and reduction of operational risks.
4. Accreditation is limited to the UK, but multilateral coverage includes the Commonwealth Secretariat and IMO.
5. The 2021 Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) remains unratified due to unresolved issues, raising legal concerns over BATUK's training framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee recommends that the State Department for Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the National Treasury, ensure the timely release of exchequer funds to Missions abroad, noting that delays in disbursements continue to undermine effective service delivery and the execution of their mandates.
2. The Committee further recommends that, in the FY 2026/27 Budget, the State Department for Foreign Affairs and the National Treasury provide adequate funding for renovation works at the Paris and London Missions to safeguard Government properties and protect the investments already made.
3. The Committee recommends that, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report by the House, the National Treasury, in collaboration with the State Department for Foreign Affairs, amend the budgeting framework to cushion Missions against foreign exchange losses that erode their operational capacity.
4. The Committee recommends that, within six (6) months of the adoption of this Report, the State Department for Foreign Affairs and the National Treasury initiate measures to harmonize the Public Finance Management and Procurement Laws with the legal frameworks of host countries, thereby easing the Missions' ability to undertake financial and procurement functions in compliance with both jurisdictions.
5. The Committee further recommends that, through Parliamentary Diplomacy, the Defence Committee schedule an engagement with its counterpart in the United Kingdom to resolve outstanding issues and facilitate the ratification of the 2021 Defence Cooperation Agreement.
6. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should spearhead the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report and apprise the National Assembly of the implementation status within ninety (90) days from the date of adoption of the report by the House.

MIN.NO.DDC/DIFR/167/2026 **ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on notice.

SIGNED: .... **DATE:** 28/07/26.

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