

Approval for Tabling
Mwangi
27/8/2026



PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN
RELATIONS

REPORT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYAN EMBASSIES IN FRANCE
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM CONDUCTED FROM 7TH TO 15TH APRIL, 2026

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 27 AUG 2026	
DAY: Thursday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Bashir Abdullahi MP (Vice-Chairperson)
CLERK-AT- THE-TABLE:	Longale



CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

AUGUST 2026

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Number of Documents Processed & Issued by the Kenyan Embassy in Paris in FY 2024/25 and 2025/26	18
Table 2: Cost Estimates for Chancery Renovations.....	21
Table 3: Cost Estimates for Residence Renovations.....	22
Table 4: Scope of Works for Repairs of Chancery and Residence in Paris	24
Table 5: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Fleet of Vehicles.....	24
Table 6: Kenya Embassy in Paris Budget Vs Anticipated Expenditure	26
Table 7: Kenya-UK Trade Trend (2015-2025).....	37
Table 8: State of Maintenance and Usability of London Mission Owned Properties	46
Table 9: London Mission Status of Funding Releases for FY 2025/26	47
Table 10: London Budget Utilization as at 31st March 2026 for FY 2025/26.....	47

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBK	-	Central Bank of Kenya
CVE	-	Countering Violent Extremism
DCA	-	Defence Cooperation Agreement
DQ	-	Diplomatic Quarter
EAC	-	East African Community
H.E.	-	His/her Excellency
IFTM	-	International & French Travel Market)
IMO	-	International Maritime Organization
JCC	-	Joint Commission for Cooperation
KNCCI	-	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MEDEF	-	Mouvement des entreprises de France
MIU	-	Military Intelligence Unit
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
NIS	-	National Intelligence Service
UK	-	United Kingdom

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 Relations to Kenya's foreign missions in France (Paris) and the United Kingdom (London) from 7th to 15th April, 2026.

The visit targeted Europe, where Kenya has twelve (12) fully-fledged Diplomatic Missions with multiple accreditations to ensure Kenya's strategic presence in the region. The missions are in: Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Brussels), France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Ireland (Dublin), Italy (Rome), Netherlands (The Hague), Russia (Moscow), Spain (Madrid), Sweden (Stockholm) and the United Kingdom (London). The delegation visited Kenya's Embassy in France (Paris) from 8th to 9th April, 2026, while Kenya's High Commission in the United Kingdom (London) was visited from 11th to 13th April, 2026.

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 oversees.

Having visited, received briefings and inspecting both the missions and the residences of the ambassadors, the delegation, among others, made the following recommendations: -

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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.

Pursuant to Standing Order (S.O) 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Committee to Kenya's diplomatic missions in France (Paris) and the United Kingdom (London) from 7th to 15th April, 2026.



Hon. Nelson Koech, CBS, M.P.

Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

1. This report documents a foreign oversight inspection visit conducted by a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations Kenyan Missions in France and the United Kingdom from 7th to 15th April, 2026.
2. The visit targeted Europe where Kenya has twelve (12) fully-fledged Diplomatic Missions with multiple accreditations to ensure Kenya's strategic presence in the region. The missions are in: Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Brussels), France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Ireland (Dublin), Italy (Rome), Netherlands (The Hague), Russia (Moscow), Spain (Madrid), Sweden (Stockholm) and United Kingdom (London). The delegation visited Kenya's Embassy in France (Paris) from 8th to 9th April, 2026 while Kenya's High Commission in United Kingdom (London) was visited from 11th to 13th April, 2026.
3. The Mission in Paris is accredited to **Portugal, Serbia, Monaco and the Holy See**. Multilaterally, the Paris Mission covers **UNESCO**. The High Commission, London, is accredited only to the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**. Multilaterally, the High Commission covers the **Commonwealth Secretariat, International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other international organizations based in London**. The visit aimed 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.
4. France and Kenya have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since independence in 1963, with France currently ranking as the fifth largest investor in Kenya. These ties have been reinforced through frequent high-level exchanges. Kenya will make history as the first Anglophone country to host the Africa-France Summit in Nairobi on 11th to 12th May 2026, which is expected to draw over 4,000 delegates, including Heads of State, Government leaders, and representatives of international organizations. Relations have further deepened through the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement in 2026, complementing France's support for Kenya's international candidatures, including the successful election of Prof. Phoebe Okowa to the International Court of Justice. France's current G7 Presidency has extended a unique invitation to Kenya as the sole African participant, alongside Brazil, India, and South Korea. The Mission continues to represent Kenya in major international forums hosted in France, such as the One Health, Nuclear, and Nutrition Summits, while cultural and educational exchanges thrive through the language assistants programme. Despite these achievements, the balance of trade remains in France's favor, with Kenya exporting **USD 113 million** and importing **USD 235 million** worth of goods.
5. Kenya and the United Kingdom have maintained strong diplomatic relations since Kenya gained independence from British colonial rule in 1963. Bilateral ties span diverse sectors including trade, investment, defence and security, counter terrorism, anti-piracy, climate change, and tourism. The UK remains Kenya's largest European foreign investor, with over 100 British companies valued at more than £2 billion operating locally, including major firms such as Barclays, Standard Chartered, GlaxoSmithKline, and Unilever just to name a few. Trade relations are significant, with the UK ranking as Kenya's second most important export destination, particularly for tea, coffee, and horticultural products, while imports from the UK include vehicles, machinery, chemicals, and printed materials. Tourism and conservation also form a vital link, with the UK as Kenya's largest source market for visitors and the Royal Family actively supporting wildlife conservation

- initiatives through charities such as Tusk and the Duke of Edinburgh International Awards Trust. Development cooperation is equally strong, with the UK Government, through DFID, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 to promote stability, growth, and infrastructure expansion, while fostering private sector led inclusive development. The human dimension of these relations is reflected in the vibrant diaspora, with approximately 250,000 British nationals residing permanently in Kenya and over 200,000 Kenyans living in the UK.
6. The oversight visit served a dual purpose: it enabled the Committee to fulfill its mandate by examining budget utilization, assessing the condition of government-owned properties, identifying challenges, and exploring opportunities within the Missions, while simultaneously providing a valuable learning environment for Members. Through this engagement, the Committee deepened its understanding of the thematic areas under its oversight. This would inform the recommendations that will be proposed for future improvements.

1.2 Mandate of the Committee

7. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations is one of the twenty (20) Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under *Standing Order 216*. The functions and mandate of the Committee include, among others, to:
- a) investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and departments;
 - b) study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
 - c) on a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;
 - d) study and review all legislation referred to it;
 - e) study, assess and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
 - f) investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
 - g) vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under *Standing Order 204* (Committee on Appointments);
 - h) examine treaties, agreements, and conventions;
 - i) make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;
 - j) consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and
 - k) examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.
8. The Second Schedule to the National Assembly *Standing Orders* assigns the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations the mandate to consider matters in related to *Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries including territorial waters, international relations, and veteran affairs*.

1.3 Oversight

9. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following MDAs: the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the State Department for Foreign Affairs (SDFA), the State Department for Diaspora

Affairs (SDDA), the State Department for East African Community (SDEAC) and the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

I.4 Committee Membership

II. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations was constituted by the House on 27th October, 2022 and comprises the following Members: -

Chairperson

Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.

Belgut Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

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

Mandera North Constituency

UDM Party

Members

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, MP
Gilgil Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, MP
Kamukunji Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, CBS, MP
Suba North Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP
Kajiado Central Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP
Kitui County

WDM-K

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP
Central Imenti Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP
Saboti Constituency

ODM Party

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

UDA Party

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, MP
Kinangop Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, MP
Sabatia Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP
Shinyalu Constituency

ANC Party

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, MP
Lagdera Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, MP
Kiambu County

UDA Party

I.4 Committee Secretariat

12. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff: -

Mr. Muyodi Meldaki Emmanuel
First Clerk Assistant/Head of Secretariat

Mr. Lenny Muchangi
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Bernard Njeru
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Salat Ali
Principal Serjeant-at-Arms II

Mr. Machuki E. Mwebi
Fiscal Analyst II

Ms. Fridah Ngari
Media Relations Officer III

Mr. John Ng'ang'a
Audio Recording Officer

Mr. Martin Sigei
Research Officer III

I.6 Committee Delegation

13. The delegation comprised of: -

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Hon. Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, CBS, M.P. | - Leader of Delegation/Vice Chairperson |
| 2) Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P. | - Member |
| 3) Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P. | - Member |
| 4) Mr. Machuki E. Mwebi | - Delegation Secretary |

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN PARIS, FRANCE

2.1 Background Information

14. The Mission in Paris is accredited to **Portugal, Serbia, Monaco and the Holy See**. Multilaterally, the Paris Mission covers **UNESCO**. 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.
15. France and Kenya have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since independence in 1963, with France currently ranking as the fifth largest investor in Kenya. These ties have been reinforced through frequent high-level exchanges. Kenya will make history as the first Anglophone country to host the Africa-France Summit in Nairobi on 11th to 12th May 2026, which is expected to draw over 4,000 delegates, including Heads of State, Government leaders, and representatives of international organizations. Relations have further deepened through the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement in 2026, complementing France's support for Kenya's international candidatures, including the successful election of Prof. Phoebe Okowa to the International Court of Justice. France's current G7 Presidency has extended a unique invitation to Kenya as the sole African participant, alongside Brazil, India, and South Korea. The Mission continues to represent Kenya in major international forums hosted in France, such as the One Health, Nuclear, and Nutrition Summits, while cultural and educational exchanges thrive through the language assistants programme. Despite these achievements, the balance of trade remains in France's favor, with Kenya exporting **USD 113 million** and importing **USD 235 million** worth of goods.

2.2 Visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Paris, France

2.2.1 Staff Establishment

16. The staff establishment at the Embassy was as follows: -

a) Home-Based Staff: -

1) Amb. Betty Cherwon	-	Ambassador, Head of Mission
2) Amb. Jane Lusenaka	-	Deputy Head of Mission
3) Mr. Hussein Muhamad	-	Head of Chancery
4) Ms. Amina Mohamed	-	Minister Counsellor
5) Ms. Lynnette Lokuruka	-	First Secretary
6) Mr. Samson Ole Nkwama	-	Second Secretary
7) Ms. Zipporah Khaoya	-	First Counsellor
8) Mr. Dancliff Obiero	-	Financial Attaché
9) Ms. Kweyu Mukhwaya	-	Immigration Attaché
10) Ms. Lilian Macharia	-	Administrative Attaché

b) Local-Based Staff: -

1) Ms. Carol Miano	-	Consular Assistant
2) Ms. Joy Eleonore	-	Financial Assistant
3) Ms. Mercy Mbwiria	-	Receptionist
4) Mr. Lenku Mosankara	-	Office Assistant
5) Mr. Adrian Manabat	-	Driver
6) Ms. Edmundo Cordenete	-	Driver

2.2.2 Diplomatic Relations (Political and Economic Engagements)

17. The Mission in Paris is accredited to **Portugal, Serbia, Monaco and the Holy See.**

(i) France

18. France and Kenya have maintained diplomatic relations since December 12, 1963, with France currently being the 5th investor in Kenya.
19. Bilateral relations between the two countries remain the strongest since independence and there have been a number of high-level exchange of visits between the two countries. The last was the visit by the Prime Cabinet Secretary in January 2026.
20. There have been over two telephone conversations between the two Presidents in the current financial and the two countries consult regularly on regional issues.
21. The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs visited France on numerous occasions and held discussions with the Advisor on Africa for President Macron.
22. Kenya is the first Anglophone country to host the Africa-France summit, which is scheduled to take place from 11th to 12th May 2026 in Nairobi. A number of Heads of State and Government as well as leaders of international organizations are expected to be part of the over 4000 delegates to the Summit.
23. There is a Kenya-France friendship committee at the National Assembly. The Embassy had met the membership on two occasions this year. The members will also visit Kenya for the Africa – France Summit.
24. The two countries signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement this year, to add to the growing relations between the two countries.
25. France holds the Presidency of the G7, which will take place in Evian in mid-June 2026. Kenya is the only country invited from the continent and joins Brazil, India and South Korea as the only non-member countries invited.
26. The Mission holds regular meetings with the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and represented the country in a number of international meetings taking place in France, among them the One Health Summit, the Nuclear Summit and the Nutrition Summit.
27. There is a language assistants programme where young Kenyans come to France for two years to teach English in schools.
28. France successfully supported Kenya's candidate for the position of judge at the International Court of Justice - Prof. Phoebe Okowa for the position of ICJ Judge. They also supported Kenya's failed candidature for membership to the Council of the International Maritime Organization.
29. Balance of Trade is in favour of France, with Kenya exporting **USD 113 million** and importing **USD 235 million** from France.

(ii) Portugal

30. Diplomatic relations were established on January, 10th 1977.
31. On September 23rd, 1982, the first Portuguese resident Ambassador presented his credentials in Nairobi and between April 21st 2016, and December 15th, 2017, they moved their Mission to Addis Ababa and back to Nairobi from May 18th, 2018 - re-establishment of resident representation.
32. The Ambassador of Kenya presented her credentials in April 2025.
33. The first political consultation between Kenya and Portugal took place in Nairobi from 15th to 16th April 2026 and will be headed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries.
34. The Mission successfully lobbied for the transfer of processing of visas to Portugal from Mozambique to their Mission in Nairobi. Previously, Kenyans had to travel to Maputo for the

application and processing. As from the month of April, 2026, they will do it from the comfort of Nairobi.

35. Balance of Trade is almost even but slightly in favour of Kenya, with Kenya exporting **USD 15.7 million** and importing **USD 11.4 million** from Portugal.
36. In January 2026, the top exports of Kenya to Portugal were Animal or vegetable fats, oils, & waxes (**€1.41 million**), Fish, Crustaceans & Molluscs (**€476,000**), and Coffee, tea, mate & spices (**€114,000**).
37. In January 2026, the main imports of Kenya from Portugal were Wood pulp & paper scrap (**€85,500**), Optical, photo, & film equipment; medical instruments (**€66,100**), and Machinery, mechanical appliances, & parts (**€58,800**).

(iii) Monaco

38. Her Excellency the Ambassador presented her credentials on 14th October 2025, becoming the first Kenyan Ambassador to do so.
39. Held a bilateral meeting with the Monaco Economic Board (MEB) to explore possible areas of collaboration relating to trade and investment.
40. Working with Monaco on a webinar between technocrats from both countries to further discuss key thematic areas of collaboration.
41. The Mission proposed and was accepted by the capital for the first ever-state visit to Kenya by the Prince of Monaco.
42. The Embassy continuously engages Kenya's Honorary Council in Monaco on furthering Kenya's interests in Monaco.

(iv) Serbia

43. Kenya-Serbia Diplomatic relations date back to the signing of the Protocol on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations with the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) on 17th December 1963.
44. The relations were affected by Kenya's recognition of Kosovo on 26th March 2025, leading to the withdrawal of the Ambassador of Kenya's Agreement by Serbia and recall of its Ambassador to Kenya.
45. Several areas of cooperation were interrupted, including trade and investment, education, among other issues. There is a vibrant Kenyan diaspora community working in various sectors and students, and it's against this background that the Mission initiated a meeting with the Serbian Embassy in Paris on 19th February 2026 to express Kenya's interest in re-establishing diplomatic engagement at the Embassy level.
46. It was agreed that further engagements take place at the level of Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs or Deputy Director General for Europe and Commonwealth with the Embassy of Serbia in Nairobi.
47. The Mission is also pursuing further engagements with Serbian officials in Belgrade.
48. Serbia exported **\$6.36 million** to Kenya in 2024. The main products that Serbia exported to Kenya were Weapons Parts and Accessories (**\$1.75 million**), Military Weapons (**\$1.53 million**), and Sauces and Seasonings (**\$1.43 million**). Over the past 5 years, exports from Serbia to Kenya have increased at an annualized rate of 27.5%, growing from **\$1.89 million** in 2019 to **\$6.36 million** in 2024.
49. In 2024, Kenya exported **\$3.11 million** to Serbia. The main products that Kenya exported to Serbia were Cut Flowers (**\$2.03 million**), Tropical Fruits (**\$390,000**), and Other live plants, cuttings and slips; mushroom spawn (**\$102,000**). Over the past 5 years, exports from Kenya

to Serbia have increased at an annualized rate of 31.5%, growing from **\$793,000** in 2019 to **\$3.11 million** in 2024.

(v) The Vatican

- 50. The Vatican supports a number of projects in Kenya, including health and education.
- 51. H.E. the President attended the funeral of the late Pope Francis sending a strong message.
- 52. The President also attended the inauguration of the new Pope
- 53. Preparations for the opening of a Mission to the Holy See is at an advanced stage.

(vi) Multilateral Engagements

- 54. In addition to the multiple bilateral accreditations, the Mission handles Kenya's interests in the international organizations based in France, particularly:
 - a) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
 - b) The International Energy Agency (IEA);
 - c) The Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) ;
 - d) The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH);
 - e) The International Transport Forum (ITF); and
 - f) The Paris Peace Forum.
- 55. As a result of the engagements with the above organizations:
 - a) Kenya hosted International Conference on Nuclear Energy (ICONE) on "Harnessing Nuclear Energy for Africa's Sustainable Development." from 24th -26th March, 2026;
 - b) Kenya is on the road to a country programme with OECD;
 - c) The first ever High-Level Dialogue on transport will be held in Kenya by the ITF bringing together Ministers and stakeholders in the transport sector from the continent. All previous sessions use to take place in Europe, Asia and Latin America;
 - d) The second Clean Cooking summit will be held in Kenya;
 - e) Monaco Economic Board engagement has been activated; and
 - f) The Paris Peace Forum in which Kenya is the only Board Member of the Governing Council will host two side events in May 2026.
- 56. In addition to the Africa France Summit scheduled to take place from 11th to 12th May in Nairobi, these conferences being hosted will bring over 10,000 delegates. Thus, significantly contributing to the economy of the country.
- 57. The Ambassador of Kenya is a co-facilitator of the Friends of Africa Group (FoAG) at the OECD and facilitated its regular sessions.

(vii) Participation/Facilitation in Economic Related Activities and Events

- 58. The Mission facilitated and coordinated a meeting with MEDEF - a French influential organization that brings together innovators, small and medium-sized enterprises, including multinational corporations across different key sectors of the economy.
- 59. The Mission facilitated and coordinated a visit to Kenya by 25 French businesses under the aegis of MEDEF delegation from various sectors, including transport, infrastructure, and energy, amongst others with the aim of engaging various Ministries to explore opportunities on trade and investment.
- 60. The Mission facilitated a meeting of over 30 business executives in France with the Prime Cabinet Secretary during his visit to Paris in January 2026.
- 61. The Mission had meetings with Kenya Airways Country Manager Paris to explore partnerships and engage on possible ways of expanding trade, tourism and investment opportunities between

- Kenya and France. The second meeting with the country manager is expected in the coming weeks to further the discussions.
62. The Mission held a meeting with a delegation from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to discuss strategies to enhance collaboration in identifying and pursuing potential opportunities in France to boost the tourism sector in Kenya.
 63. The Mission regularly attends the annual Paris International Agricultural Show - the largest agricultural exhibition in the world and attracts farmers, policy makers, agribusiness and consumers from across the globe.
 64. Kenya has been invited to the IFTM trade show to be held at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles from 15th to 17th September, 2026. The trade show is France's leading international tourism trade show event dedicated to tourism and travel, during which countries are given a chance to address their country's tourism policy. The platform will give Kenya access to one of Europe's most important tourism markets. For Kenya, it means direct access to European tour operators and tour agencies, as France and Europe are key bound markets to African tourism especially for safari, beach, and cultural travel.

2.2.3 Consular Matters

(i) Consular Services at the Mission

65. The Mission has enhanced diaspora engagement and consular services in the financial year through an informative and user-friendly website by provision of the following services:
 - (i) Kenyans seeking consular service have a simplified App for booking appointments, which enables them to come to the Embassy at their own convenient time.
 - (ii) Direct deposit of fees on the Embassy account for document processing. This has come in handy for Kenyans who live far away from Paris and those in countries accredited to the Embassy in France. With this arrangement, it is possible for them to enjoy the services offered by sending in applications and receive the documents by registered mail without having to come physically.
 - (iii) The website has a provision of links to other government sites which provide services that are needed by members of the diaspora.
66. The processing of applications for translation, legalization and attestation is done within three working days. Passport applications are exported for printing and they take seven working days. For certificates of No Impediment to Marriage, applicants should apply and pay online for processing by the relevant agency, whereas the Police Clearance certificate can be paid for online or at the Embassy and it is forwarded to Nairobi for processing and issuance of the certificate.
67. Listed below is the total number of documents processed and issued by the Mission for the financial year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

Table 1: Number of Documents Processed & Issued by the Kenyan Embassy in Paris in FY 2024/25 and 2025/26

S/No.	Type of Document	Total
1.	Passports	126
2.	Emergency Travel Documents	28
3.	Birth Certificates	31
4.	Police Clearance certificates	91

5.	CNIM	38
6.	Translations	326
7.	Legalization	206
8.	Attestations	240

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

68. The Mission carried out mobile consular services in Lisbon, Portugal, Marseille and Lyon where several applications were received for processing. Question and answer sessions were held and the Embassy officials responded to queries from the diaspora members on various documents and issues. From these meetings, the Mission gets to know the welfare and concerns of Kenyans in different cities.
69. The Mission carried out a mobile consular service in Belgrade, Serbia and met Kenyans on two days who voiced concerns about agents who are taking advantage of desperate Kenyans who want to find jobs abroad; they are made to sign fake contracts with enticing salaries only for them to find that it was a gimmick used to recruit them and that is not what is on the ground. They are told to pay for their own tickets, whereas the would-be employers give money for the same that is recovered once the Kenyans reach Serbia and start work. The Mission also plans to visit Lyon, Bordeaux, Lisbon- Portugal, Nice and Montpellier this financial year.
70. During the financial year, the Mission participated in various activities that have strengthened diaspora engagement and by so doing supported cultural activities organized by the Kenyan diaspora as follows:
- (i) Sporting activities involving elite athletes such as marathons and personal races for world records.
 - (ii) East Africa diaspora tournament, football competition involving diaspora members of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.
 - (iii) The Mission has actively participated in the summer barbecues organized by the committee of Kenyan diaspora members; these summer parties, which echo the Kenyan culture of meeting and sharing *nyama choma* and *ugali*, were held in the cities of Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Dijon, Nantes and Nice. During these parties, information regarding remittance, investment and national development is disseminated to the Kenyan diaspora.
71. The Mission facilitated two distant learners, one last financial year and one in the current to use the chancery as an examination centre and an official of the Embassy provided invigilation services. The examinations were for the Nursing Council of Kenya and Kenyatta University.
72. The Embassy has an emergency line which is manned by a duty officer 24 hours a day and 7 days a week; this number is shared on the website and Kenyans in distress can reach out using it in case of an emergency. Besides the emergency line, the embassy's landline is manned by the receptionist throughout the day and the diaspora emails are responded to promptly.

(ii) Organization of the Kenyan Diaspora

73. The Mission maintains an updated database and encourages diaspora registration through its website. The registration now stands at 2,500 for France, 300 for Portugal and 300 for Serbia.
74. There has been a failed attempt to revive the dissolved umbrella body in France and the fragmented nature of the diaspora has made it difficult to effectively deal with the Kenyans. The last attempt was one month ago when the leaders of select associations fell out immediately after they went to constituents.

75. The Committee had the opportunity to engage 2 representatives of the Kenyan diaspora community in France. The diaspora commended the Embassy for notable improvements in consular services, particularly the introduction of an online appointment system that has enhanced efficiency, reduced congestion, and minimized the need for physical visits. However, the representatives also indicated that fragmented nature of the Kenyan diaspora in France is what is inhibiting them in coming together.
76. However, the Kenyan students in France who number about 400 are better organized. They work closely with the Embassy, and we held a very successful orientation for new arrivals at the Embassy in October. The Mission participated in an event organized last month at the Cite International University in Paris by members of the Kenya Students Association in France (KSAF) and other organizations.
77. The diaspora in Portugal and Serbia are better organized, cohesive and have elected leaders. There associations are functional and responsive to the needs of the members. They seamlessly work closely with the Embassy.

2.2.4 Assets Owned by the Mission and Asset Management Plan

78. As part of the oversight exercise, the delegation inspected the following assets owned by the Mission:

(a) Buildings

(i) The Chancery

79. The Chancery is located at 3 Rue Freycinet in the 16th arrondissement of Paris. The Government acquired the Chancery in **1997** from Groupama Vie, a limited company (formerly known as Soravie). Previously, the property was owned by Freycinet Wilson (company) until 1983.
80. The property is registered under section 1604 FP, number 77 and has a surface area of two ares fifty-nine centiares (2a 59ca). It consists of a basement, ground floor, two full floors, a third floor with sloping ceilings and a backyard that has a metallic staircase. There is also an enclosed entrance porch that can be accessible to vehicles.
81. The property is located in a prime area of central Paris.
82. Having procured the Chancery in 1997, as already constructed buildings, over time the property has undergone natural wear and tear, coupled with gaps in regular maintenance due to insufficient budget. During the inspection visit, the delegation noted the following regarding the Chancery condition:
- (i) Structural cracks
 - (ii) Blocked drainage
 - (iii) Dampness in basement
 - (iv) General deterioration due to underfunding
83. Photos of the poor condition of the Residence are in Annex I.
84. At the request of the Mission, an inspection team comprising of the Director General/ Administration and officials from public works visited Paris from 17th -20th May 2024. In their report, the team highlights structural issues and other areas of concern that needs to be addressed.
85. Estimates for full repairs received from various companies show that at least **Kshs. 145 million** would be needed to address the issues raised by the inspection team as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Cost Estimates for Chancery Renovations

No.	Company	Nature of Renovation	Amount (Euros)	Amount (Kshs.)
1	Axe Architects	Full Renovation	973,194.60	145,979,190
2	Mudo Architects	Fee of 3,500 euros required for a Structural Engineer before submitting their quotation.		
3	Ami Conseil	Fee 19,400 euros required for a Structural Engineer before submitting a quotation		

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

(ii) Official Residence

86. The Kenyan residence in France is located in the city of Vésinet, within the Yvelines Department in the western part of the Île-de-France region, with its prefecture (administration of the department) as Versailles.
87. The property is officially surveyed and registered in Vésinet under section AO No. 116 as "41-43 route de la Plaine".

88. Copies of the property registration and purchase contract dated 4th April 1979 can be obtained in the Versailles Registry.
89. The official residence covers a surface area of 2,826 square meters. It was constructed in 1975.
90. The residence consists of a single structure/maisonette, parking wing and garden around closed walls. The maisonette has a basement with a crawl space area in it; the ground floor has an entrance hall, cloakroom, wash basin, water closet, living room, dining room, kitchen and an office. The first floor comprises a bathroom, shower room, laundry room, master bedroom and three smaller bedrooms.
91. It is a freehold and title deeds were transferred to Nairobi vide letter Ref. MFA.HSE/9A dated 21st October 2011.
92. Having procured the residence in 1979 as already constructed buildings, over time the property has undergone natural wear and tear, coupled with gaps in regular maintenance due to insufficient budget. During the inspection visit, the delegation noted the following regarding the Chancery condition:
- Water leakages
 - Rusted pipework
 - Dilapidated kitchen
 - Collapsed perimeter wall
 - Rotten timber structures
93. Photos of the poor condition of the Residence are in Annex II.
94. At the request of the Mission, an inspection team comprising of the Director General/ Administration and officials from public works visited Paris from 17th-20th May 2024. In their report, the team highlights structural issues and other areas of concern that needs to be addressed.
95. Estimates for full repairs received from various companies show that at least **Kshs.88 million** would be needed to address the issues raised by the inspection team as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Cost Estimates for Residence Renovations

No.	Company	Nature of Renovation	Amount (Euros)	Amount (Kshs.)
1	Axe Architects	Full renovation	588,754	88,313,100
2	Mudo Architects	Partial Renovation	748,000	112,200,000
		Full Renovation	1,200,000	180,000,000
		Full Renovation with Extension	1,492,464	223,869,600
3	Ami Conseil	Full Renovation	946,871.40	142,030,710
		Full Renovation plus extension	1,900,843.33	285,126,499

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

(iii) Actions Taken to Address the Poor Condition of the Chancery and Residence

96. For this Financial year, the Mission was allocated Kshs. 35 million, of which half (Kshs.17.5 million) was received in the previous quarter and the rest is expected before closure of the financial year.

97. Against this background, the Mission refocused the scope of work for both the Chancery and the Official residence with the intention of addressing urgent repair work to halt further dilapidation. The refocused areas are as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Scope of Works for Repairs of Chancery and Residence in Paris

No.	Building	Scope of Work
1.	Official Residence	- Gutters - Downpipes and roof eaves - Installation of Double-Glazed window & doors - Basement- Plumbing works, insulation and aeration - Kitchen Extractor
2.	Chancery	- Gutters, downpipes and manholes - Drainage system at the basement - Painting of the front door and back door - Lighting - Replacement of carpets (left wing staircase to the basement and consular section) - Renovation works in the Pink Room

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

98. The works were advertised on the Mission's website and social media accounts.
99. The Minutes of the Procurement and Disposal Committee and quotations received from various companies were forwarded last month to the Headquarters for consideration and approval.
100. Works will start once the approval is received, including request for permits from the municipalities.

(b) Motor vehicles

101. The Mission's fleet currently is having 5 vehicles shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Fleet of Vehicles

No.	Registration No.	Make & Model	Engine No.	Chassis No.	Year of purchase	Notes
1	64 CMDI	MERCEDES-BENZ E Class	HA-578-NX 2024FB22148	WIKLF5ABOSA106153	02/12/2024	New
2	64 CD 214	MERCEDES-BENZ V250 D	HC-473-BA 2025BC39695	WIVVMLFZ154453663	24/02/2025	New
3	64 CD 212	DS 9 E-TENSE 250 Rivoli	GN-738-YH 2024BV12037	VR1X2DGZRN2800968	16/05/2023	Fairly New
4	64 CD 213	MERCEDES-BENZ - E Class	CL-919-QS 2024FB22146	WDD2120591A67010	10/10/2012	Loaned to UNESCO
5	64 CD 202	VOLVO S60	B4204T9 1473574	YV1FS49LDG2406752	2016	Awaiting Disposal

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

102. Motor Vehicle 64 CD 213 is temporarily loaned to the Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO on the 13th August 2025, MFDA/SDFA/TRANS/8 VOL 2(4) and KEF/ADM/55A VOL 1 (8).
103. One other motor vehicle 64 CD 202 (Volvo S60), is earmarked for disposal and an initial letter and reminder was done to Headquarters. The Mission waiting for the approval to conduct the Disposal process
104. **Insurance:** The Mission's motor vehicles are insured as indicated in the attached matrix, except for the Volvo S60, which is earmarked for disposal once Headquarters grants authority.
105. The vehicles are regularly maintained through their respective dealerships.

2.2.5 Mission Budget

106. The mission prepares and submits annual work plan, procurement plan, cash flow projections, budget and monthly financial returns.
107. It gets funds from the following sources;
- (i) Quarterly disbursements from national government for both recurrent and development
 - (ii) A.I.A specifically authentication/Legalization of documents
 - (iii) Disposal of idle assets if any.
 - (iv) Receipts from V.A.T. claims
108. While the mission is executing the budget, it ensures that Annual Work Plans and the Procurement Plans are developed, signed and implemented.
109. The mission funds are utilised within the economic items as stipulated in the expenditure returns after calculation of the losses and gains.

(i) Recurrent Expenditure

110. The Printed Estimates for the current financial year (FY 2025/26) is Kshs. **366,442,007** inclusive of A.I.A. To date, the Mission received **Kshs. 260,140,940 (70.99%** of total budget) and utilized **Kshs. 224,464,219.11 (61.26%** absorption rate).
111. The AIE and exchequer releases are not timely. This has been true for many years.

(ii) Status of Appropriation in Aid (A.I.A) Collections

112. Total AiA collected: **Kshs. 5,617,494** with authority to incur: **Kshs. 2,500,000.00** while the balance to be remitted to HQ.
113. The sources of this A.I.A are:

- (i) Insurance refunds
- (ii) Authentication and legalization of documents
- (iii) Disposal of idle assets
- (iv) Receipts from VAT claims
- (v) Sent securities deposit refunds
- (vi) Electricity refunds
- (vii) Water refunds
- (viii) Education supplements.

(iii) Development Expenditure

114. The Mission was allocated **Kshs. 35,000,000** in the current financial year to undertake development projects - repairs and renovation of the chancery and the residence. So far **Kshs. 17,500,000** was disbursed to the Mission. The remainder is expected to be released to the Mission with the 4th quarter disbursement.
115. The utilization of the funds will begin as soon as approval for the quotations is received from the Headquarters.

(iv) Determinants of the Recurrent and Development Budget

116. The budget is informed by the mandate and the needs of the Mission including contractual obligations, staff establishment and performance contract. In terms of development, it is determined by the needs of the government properties, which are old and need regular repairs and renovations.

(v) Budget Shortfall (Critically Underfunded Areas)

117. The Mission is striving to prudently utilize the resources allocated within the budget constraints with the ever-increasing financial demands. About 90% of the Mission's financial disbursements goes to contractual obligations that are not negotiable and may have legal consequences if not complied with. As a result, some of the mandates of the Mission suffer critical underfunding.

118. In the current financial year, the Mission has a budget shortfall of **Kshs.63,298,204.00** as summarized Table 6, excluding the losses from currency exchange fluctuation amounting to **Kshs.5,156,196.64**.

Table 6: Kenya Embassy in Paris Budget Vs Anticipated Expenditure

No.	Item Description	Printed Estimates	Anticipated Expenditure	Shortfall/ Deficit
01	Temporary Employees	44,937,794.00	49,000,000.00	4,062,206.00
02	Employer contr. to NHIS	11,200,000.00	17,000,000.00	5,800,000.00
03	Utilities-Electricity and water	6,976,168.00	9,500,000.00	2,523,832.00
04	Communication, supplies and services	2,256,168.00	4,500,000.00	2,243,832.00
05	Domestic Travels	1,187,200.00	4,500,000.00	3,312,800.00
06	Foreign Travels	7,896,883.00	11,000,000.00	3,103,117.00
07	Rental of produced assets-Residential and Non-Reside	44,139,859.00	53,000,000.00	8,860,141.00
08	Hospitality Supplies and Services	2,363,366.00	9,000,000.00	6,636,634.00
09	Office and General office Supplies	253,292.00	1,500,000.00	1,246,708.00
10	Routine Maintenance-m/v	550,160.00	3,000,000.00	2,449,840.00
11	Routine Maintenance-Other Assets	3,585,478.00	12,500,000.00	8,914,522.00
12	Personal allowances (FSA)	178,855,428.00	193,000,000.00	14,144,572.00
	Total	304,201,796	367,500,000	63,298,204

Source: Kenyan Embassy in Paris Submissions

119. This underfunding has crippled the outreach capabilities of the Mission.

2.2.6 Issues of Concern

120. Inadequate funding of the Mission's programmes and delayed disbursements of the fund affect the implementation of planned activities.

121. Foreign exchange losses arising from the current budgeting framework, where funds are appropriated in one currency but executed in another. This exposure significantly erodes the Mission's effective spending power and imposes additional strain on already limited resources, thereby undermining service delivery and the full implementation of its mandate.
122. Inadequate resources to aggressively market Kenya. As a result, the Mission could not participate in the promotion of trade and investment activities, including exhibitions, roadshows and others that have cost implication.
123. Businesses in France are highly litigious and there are pending cases against some of the government agencies.
124. Agents who are taking advantage of desperate Kenyans who want to find jobs abroad (Serbia), they are made to sign fake contracts with enticing salaries only for them to find that it was a gimmick used to recruit them and that is not what is on the ground. They are told to pay for their own tickets whereas the would-be employers gives money for the same that is recovered once the Kenyans reach Serbia and start work.

3.0 THE KENYAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

3.1 Background Information

125. Kenya and the United Kingdom have maintained strong diplomatic relations since Kenya gained independence from British colonial rule in 1963. Bilateral ties span diverse sectors including trade, investment, defence and security, counter terrorism, anti-piracy, climate change, and tourism. The UK remains Kenya's largest European foreign investor, with over 100 British companies valued at more than £2 billion operating locally, including major firms such as Barclays, Standard Chartered, GlaxoSmithKline, and Unilever just to name a few. Trade relations are significant, with the UK ranking as Kenya's second most important export destination, particularly for tea, coffee, and horticultural products, while imports from the UK include vehicles, machinery, chemicals, and printed materials. Tourism and conservation also form a vital link, with the UK as Kenya's largest source market for visitors and the Royal Family actively supporting wildlife conservation initiatives through charities such as Tusk and the Duke of Edinburgh International Awards Trust. Development cooperation is equally strong, with the UK Government, through DFID, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 to promote stability, growth, and infrastructure expansion, while fostering private sector led inclusive development. The human dimension of these relations is reflected in the vibrant diaspora, with approximately 250,000 British nationals residing permanently in Kenya and over 200,000 Kenyans living in the UK.
126. The oversight visit served a dual purpose: it enabled the Committee to fulfill its mandate by examining budget utilization, assessing the condition of government-owned properties, identifying challenges, and exploring opportunities within the Missions, while simultaneously providing a valuable learning environment for Members. Through this engagement, the Committee deepened its understanding of the thematic areas under its oversight. This would inform the recommendations that will be proposed for future improvements.

3.2 Visit to the Kenyan Embassy in London, United Kingdom

3.2.1 Staff Establishment

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

a) Home-Based Staff: -

1) H.E. Amb. Maurice Makoloo	-	High Commissioner
2) Amb. Dr. Joseph Warui	-	Deputy Head of Mission
3) Ms. Purity Samante	-	Trade Attaché
4) Mr. Ronny Mutethia	-	Minister Counsellor
5) Mr. Ali Mambo	-	Minister Counsellor
6) Ms. Belinda Kiilu	-	Minister Counsellor
7) Mr. Fidel Ong'ute	-	First Secretary
8) Mr. Kennedy Mbara	-	Minister Counsellor
9) Ms. Agnes Wachira	-	Second Secretary
10) Mr. Willie Machocho Weru	-	Education Attaché
11) Mr. Karisa Sifa	-	Finance Attaché
12) Ms. Sahara Abdi	-	Secondary Secretary
13) Ms. Mary Mwihaki	-	Minister
14) Col. Abdirizak S. Dagane	-	Defence Advisor
15) Mr. Willy K. Sigei	-	Immigration Attaché

16) Mrs. Alicent Odipo	-	Immigration Attaché
17) Ms. Anne Njoroge	-	Administrative Attaché
b) Local-Based Staff: -		
1) Mr. Ismail Mugisha	-	Defence Driver
2) Mrs. Mosa Sejoe-Orest	-	Defence Admin
3) Ms. Grace Sifuna	-	Accounts Assistant
4) Ms. Imelda Dagala	-	Cleaner
5) Ms. Jane Kimemia	-	Administrative Assistant
6) Mr. Nelson Agullana	-	Caretaker
7) Mr. Deo Niyonkuru	-	Driver
8) Mr. George Njino Saitoti	-	Driver
9) Mr. Mutinda Musee Marugu	-	Driver
10) Mr. Manuelito Ayos	-	Driver
11) Mr. Eric Thurania	-	Driver
12) Mr. Ian Nabakwe	-	Consular Assistant
13) Ms. Maria Ordonez Chacon	-	Receptionist
14) Ms. Mary Njenga	-	Security
15) Ms. Victoria Monari	-	Administrative Assistant
16) Mr. Amos Kibe Wachira	-	ICT
17) Mr. Simon Munyua	-	Education Driver
18) Ms. Jane Warui	-	Housekeeper

3.2.2 Diplomatic Relations

128. The High Commission, London, is accredited only to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The High Commission, however, covers the Commonwealth Secretariat, International Maritime Organization and other international organizations based in London.
129. The Defence Attaché holds regional accreditation covering the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland.
130. This arrangement presents several operational challenges. Firstly, it places significant strain on limited human and financial resources, as a single office is required to service multiple countries with diverse defence engagement priorities. Secondly, the coordination of activities across multiple jurisdictions increases administrative complexity, particularly in relation to scheduling high-level engagements, managing differing national protocols, and responding to time-sensitive requests.
131. Additionally, logistical constraints associated with covering a wide geographical area from a single duty station limit the Mission's ability to maintain a consistent in-country presence. Visa requirements and travel formalities further compound these challenges, often resulting in delays and reduced flexibility in responding to emerging opportunities. Collectively, these factors may constrain the frequency, timeliness, and depth of bilateral and multilateral defence engagements in non-resident countries, potentially affecting the overall effectiveness of representation and partnership development.
132. The Mission is actively engaged in promoting and strengthening economic, political, and diplomatic relations as summarized below:
 - (i) **Economic Engagement:** The mission facilitates trade and investment by supporting business partnerships, promoting export opportunities, and engaging with local chambers of commerce and investors. It also participates in trade fairs, business forums, and economic dialogues.

- (ii) **Political Relations:** Regular interaction is maintained with government officials, policymakers, and relevant institutions in the host and accredited countries. The mission monitors political developments and contributes to strengthening bilateral cooperation through dialogue and official visits.
- (iii) **Diplomatic Activities:** The mission plays a key role in maintaining formal diplomatic ties by organizing and attending official events, high-level meetings, and multilateral engagements. It also represents national interests in international forums and supports negotiations and agreements. The mission is active in the Commonwealth and the International Maritime Organization as well as other international organizations.
- (iv) **Public Diplomacy and Outreach:** Cultural events, educational exchanges, and public engagement initiatives are organized to enhance mutual understanding and visibility. The mission also engages with the diaspora community to strengthen people-to-people relations.

3.2.3 Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024

- 133. The Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya, 2024 contains eight focus areas, i.e., Peace and Security Diplomacy; Economic and Commercial Diplomacy; Oceans and Blue Diplomacy; Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy; Environmental and Climate Change Diplomacy; Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy; Diaspora Diplomacy; and Socio-Cultural Diplomacy.
- 134. The High Commission operationalizes its mandate in line with the eight thematic focus areas of Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024 through functional role allocation, where specific officers are assigned responsibilities aligned to each thematic area. This ensures clarity in execution, accountability, and effective coordination.

(i) Peace and Security Diplomacy

- 135. *Responsible Officers:* Defence Attaché, Foreign Relations Officers, Political Officers, Maritime Attaché.
- 136. *Functions:* Monitoring and reporting on security developments; supporting defence cooperation; and engaging in conflict prevention and resolution initiatives. The function also includes participation in plurilateral engagements, particularly within frameworks such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Commonwealth, to address issues that may constitute external interference in the internal affairs of the country.
- 137. *Deliverables:* Timely political and security reports; facilitation of defence cooperation activities; and active participation in security dialogues and relevant international forums.
- 138. *Coordination:* Close collaboration with host government security agencies, defence institutions, and international partners, as well as coordination with plurilateral organizations such as the IMO and the Commonwealth.

(ii) Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

- 139. *Responsible Officers:* Commercial Attaché, Political Officers.
- 140. *Functions:* Promotion of trade, investment, and tourism opportunities.
- 141. *Deliverables:* Trade missions, business forums, investment briefs, and market intelligence reports.
- 142. *Coordination:* Engagement with private sector stakeholders, chambers of commerce, and relevant government ministries/agencies.

(iii) Oceans and Blue Economy Diplomacy

- 143. *Responsible Officers:* Political Officer, Maritime Attaché.
- 144. *Functions:* Promotion of maritime cooperation, sustainable ocean resource use, and blue economy investments.
- 145. *Deliverables:* Bilateral engagements on maritime issues, policy briefs, and participation in ocean-related initiatives.
- 146. *Coordination:* Collaboration with maritime authorities, international organizations, and coastal stakeholders.

(iv) Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy

- 147. *Responsible Officers:* Political Officers, Maritime Attaché.
- 148. *Functions:* Representation of Kenya's interests in multilateral platforms and international organizations.
- 149. *Deliverables:* Policy briefs, negotiation inputs, and participation in multilateral meetings and forums.
- 150. *Coordination:* Engagement with international institutions and alignment with regional and global blocs.

(v) Environmental and Climate Change Diplomacy

- 151. *Responsible Officers:* Political Officer, Maritime Attaché.
- 152. *Functions:* Advocacy for climate action, environmental sustainability, and green development partnerships.
- 153. *Deliverables:* Participation in climate discussions, environmental reporting, and partnership initiatives.
- 154. *Coordination:* Collaboration with environmental agencies, climate bodies, and development partners.

(vi) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Diplomacy

- 155. *Responsible Officers:* Education Attaché, Political Officer.
- 156. *Functions:* Promotion of education linkages, research collaboration, and technology transfer, promotion of health partnerships.
- 157. *Deliverables:* Academic partnerships, innovation initiatives, scholarship facilitation, health partnerships.
- 158. *Coordination:* Engagement with universities, research institutions, and technology stakeholders.

(vii) Diaspora Diplomacy

- 159. *Responsible Officers:* Head of Mission, Deputy Head of Mission, Immigration Attachés, Foreign Relations Officers, Political Officers.
- 160. *Functions:* Protection of diaspora welfare and mobilization of diaspora for national development.
- 161. *Deliverables:* Consular services, diaspora engagement forums, and investment facilitation initiatives.
- 162. *Coordination:* Close collaboration with diaspora associations, government agencies, and community organizations.

(viii) Socio-Cultural Diplomacy

- 163. *Responsible Officers:* Commercial Attaché, Political Officers.
- 164. *Functions:* Promotion of Kenya's cultural heritage and strengthening people-to-people relations.

165. *Deliverables*: Cultural events, public diplomacy initiatives, and branding activities.
166. *Coordination*: Partnerships with cultural institutions, diaspora groups, and local organizations.
167. Finally, in all its operations, the Mission adopts a coordinated and integrated approach, where:
- (i) Officers often support multiple thematic areas to ensure flexibility and efficiency;
 - (ii) Regular internal consultations and reporting mechanisms ensure alignment across functions; and
 - (iii) Engagement with external stakeholders (government, private sector, diaspora, and international organizations) strengthens implementation.
168. The above structure ensures that the High Commission's work is aligned, responsive, and results-oriented, effectively advancing Kenya's foreign policy objectives across all thematic areas.

3.2.3 Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

169. The Mission's economic and commercial diplomacy strategy is closely aligned with Kenya's national trade, investment, and development priorities as articulated in key policy frameworks such as the Foreign Policy 2024, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Kenya's Vision 2030. The Mission operationalizes this alignment by prioritizing sectors that contribute to economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development.
170. The UK remains one of Kenya's most important bilateral partners, both as a trading destination and a source of investment, technology, and development assistance. The UK is a significant investor in Kenya, with many British companies operating in sectors such as horticulture, manufacturing, insurance, energy, and logistics.
171. A core mandate of the Commercial Section is to position Kenya as a leading Investment destination and Trade Partner in Africa. To achieve this, the section collaborated with key stakeholders including the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest), the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, relevant government ministries, and Business Membership Organizations from both Kenya and the UK. Key objectives of the Section include:
- (i) Supporting effective implementation of the Kenya–UK Economic Partnership Agreement
 - (ii) Promoting Kenyan exports to the UK market, with emphasis on value-added products
 - (iii) Facilitating inward investment from the UK into Kenya
 - (iv) Providing market intelligence and trade policy analysis to headquarters
 - (v) Strengthening cooperation with UK trade, regulatory, and business institutions
172. Kenya presents a compelling investment proposition, characterized by a strategic geographic location, a growing middle class, expanding infrastructure, and a liberalized economy supported by investor-friendly policies. The country's priority investment sectors include:
- (i) Agribusiness and agro-processing
 - (ii) Renewable energy
 - (iii) Affordable housing and real estate
 - (iv) Manufacturing
 - (v) ICT and digital infrastructure
 - (vi) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial parks
173. Key activities include:
- a) **Export Promotion and Market Access**
 - Promoted Kenyan exports under the duty-free, quota-free access provided by the Kenya–UK EPA;

- Supported participation of Kenyan firms in major UK trade fairs and exhibitions, including food, beverage, fashion, and investment events;
- Facilitated business-to-business (B2B) meetings between Kenyan exporters and UK buyers;
- Provided advisory support on UK standards, certifications, labelling, and customs procedures;
- *Priority sectors supported included tea, coffee, fresh produce, cut flowers, textiles and apparel, handicrafts, and emerging manufactured goods.*

b) Investment Promotion and Facilitation

- Strategic investor outreach & Hosting investment roundtables and forums aimed at attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI);
- Facilitated business-to-business (B2B) and government-to-business (G2B) engagements;
- Facilitated investor delegations, site visits, and follow-up engagements with Kenyan Ministries, Department and Agencies;
- Assisted in addressing investor concerns related to policy clarity, incentives, and operational challenges;
- The UK remained a key source of investment interest in renewable energy, financial services, agribusiness, and technology.

c) Trade Policy Engagement and Advocacy

- Engaged UK government departments, including Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and DEFRA, on trade facilitation and regulatory issues affecting Kenyan exports;
- Supported bilateral trade dialogues and EPA implementation mechanisms;
- Advocated for fair treatment of Kenyan exports under evolving UK regulatory frameworks;
- Monitored and reported on UK trade policy developments relevant to Kenya.

d) Trade Intelligence and Reporting

- Submitted regular market intelligence reports, sector briefs, and regulatory updates to headquarters;
- Provided early warning on changes in UK import requirements, sustainability standards, and border controls;
- Supported policy formulation and private-sector decision-making through data-driven analysis.

174. The Mission also aligns its strategy with the **UK Trade Strategy (2025)**, which emphasizes:

- Free trade agreements and sector-focused arrangements
- Support for SMEs, digital trade, and innovation
- Sustainable, ethical, and net-zero-compliant trade practices
- Resilient supply chains and high-impact sectors (automotive, clean energy, digital services)

175. The above allows Kenya to identify complementary sectors for export promotion and investment, such as clean energy, digital solutions, and sustainable agriculture, ensuring that diplomacy is responsive to both domestic priorities and UK market trends.

176. Through this coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach, the Mission ensures alignment between national priorities and external engagement, thereby delivering a coherent and effective economic diplomacy agenda.

3.2.4 Challenges Faced by Kenyan Exporters Accessing UK Market

177. Kenyan exporters face a range of challenges in accessing and expanding in the UK market, including:
- (i) Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):
 - o Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures affecting agricultural and horticultural products.
 - Strict labeling, packaging, and quality requirements for food and beverages.
 - (ii) Regulatory and Standards-Related Barriers:
 - o Compliance with UK and EU standards (e.g., product certification, safety, and traceability).
 - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement requirements.
 - (iii) Customs and Documentation Challenges:
 - Complex import procedures, rules of origin, and documentation delays.
 - High cost and time of logistics for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
 - (iv) Market Competition:
 - High competition from established EU and global suppliers in key sectors such as tea, coffee, horticulture, and processed foods.
178. Some actions taken by the Mission include:
- a) *Market Intelligence and Guidance*
 - Provision of UK market reports, trade briefs, and guidance on regulatory compliance and standards to ensure exporters are well-prepared for market requirements.
 - b) *Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building*
 - Organizing trade missions, business forums, and B2B meetings to connect Kenyan SMEs with UK buyers and investors.
 - Advising companies on SPS compliance, documentation, and certification processes to reduce delays and improve shipment success.
 - c) *Advocacy and Policy Engagement*
 - Engaging UK authorities, trade bodies, and regulators to address non-tariff barriers and improve market access.
 - Representing Kenyan exporters' interests in bilateral discussions and multilateral platforms, including the Commonwealth and UK trade facilitation initiatives.
 - d) *Promotion of Kenyan Products and Branding*
 - Showcasing high-value Kenyan exports such as tea, coffee, horticulture, and artisanal products through exhibitions and cultural events.
 - Supporting SMEs to strengthen their market presence and competitiveness in the UK.
179. Some of the notable achievements realized through the Mission interventions above include:
- (i) **Cut Flower Export Tariff Suspension:** Secured a **two-year suspension of the 8% export tariff** on Kenyan cut flowers exported via the EU. Previously, flowers transiting through the Amsterdam Flower Auction were treated as EU-originating goods, attracting the UK Global Tariff. The intervention removed this burden and simplified customs procedures.
 - (ii) **Reduced Inspection Rate for Kenyan Peas:** Successfully reduced inspection rates from 10% to 5%, facilitating smoother and faster exports.

- (iii) **VAT Refunds for Flamingo Horticulture International:** Supported the approval and disbursement of USD 13 million in VAT refunds in tranches, improving cash flow for exporters.

180. The Mission has identified and actively promoted a range of high-impact investment opportunities across infrastructure, financial services, renewable energy, agribusiness, and tourism. Some of the opportunities identified include:

- (i) A flagship project is the **Nairobi Railway City**, a transformative transit-oriented urban development being implemented by Kenya Railways. The project involves the redevelopment of the Nairobi Central Railway Station and its surrounding 438-acre area within the Central Business District into a modern, multi-modal urban hub, modelled on London's King's Cross.

The project has attracted strong international interest and financing support, including a commitment of approximately USD 198 million from United Kingdom Export Finance (UKEF). Engagements at the highest level, including a meeting between H.E. the President and the CEO of UKEF during an official visit to the United Kingdom, have further reinforced investor confidence. The first phase of the Nairobi Central Railway Station is expected to be completed by June 2027.

- (ii) **Kenya Investment Forum (KIF) – June 30, 2025:** Organized jointly by the Kenya High Commission, the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest), and Invest Africa, the forum convened over 150 senior stakeholders from government and the private sector in the UK. It served as a platform to showcase Kenya's investment opportunities, particularly the Nairobi Railway City project and the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC). Key outcomes included:

- **BUPA** - committed to establishing operations within the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC), strengthening Kenya's position as a regional hub for healthcare and insurance services.
- **Africa Specialty Risks** - announced plans to establish a presence within the NIFC, enhancing insurance and reinsurance capacity across Africa.
- **Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)** - initiated the development of an Infrastructure Credit Enhancement Facility to unlock long-term financing for infrastructure projects.
- **Flamingo Group International** – signed an investment intent of USD 15 million to expand horticultural operations in Kenya, with the potential to create over 3,000 jobs.

- (iii) **UK–East Africa Trade and Investment Forum (EATIF) – May 21–22, 2025:**

The inaugural forum, held in London, brought together over 500 participants from East Africa and the UK, creating a platform for deal-making, partnerships, and regional collaboration. Key outcomes included:

- A USD 100 million trade finance facility by British International Investment (BII) and Standard Chartered Bank to support trade in Kenya and Tanzania, with projected trade flows of over USD 450 million
- A USD 5 million commitment by BII towards electric mobility in Kenya, supporting the rollout of 5,000 electric motorbikes and battery-swapping infrastructure.

- Strengthened pipelines in infrastructure, clean energy, agribusiness, healthcare, and manufacturing, supported by UK financing instruments such as UKEF and BII.

The forum established a strong foundation for sustained UK–East Africa investment cooperation, with structured follow-up mechanisms to convert leads into bankable projects.

(iv) **Investor Support and Facilitation (Including Diaspora):** The Mission provides end-to-end support to investors, including diaspora investors, through a coordinated facilitation framework:

- **Investment Promotion and Outreach:** Organization of investment forums, roundtables, and targeted sector briefings to showcase opportunities and connect investors with Kenyan counterparts
- **Facilitation Services:** Coordination of investor delegations, site visits, and high-level meetings with relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)
- **Aftercare and Problem-Solving:** Support in addressing investor concerns related to regulatory frameworks, incentives, licensing, and operational challenges
- **Diaspora Engagement:** Encouragement of diaspora investment through tailored outreach, information sharing, and linking diaspora investors to credible opportunities and institutions such as KenInvest and the NIFC
- **Policy and Market Intelligence:** Provision of up-to-date information on sector opportunities, regulatory requirements, and risk factors to support informed investment decisions

(v) **Tourism Investment Promotion:** The Mission also promotes investment in tourism, leveraging Kenya's global brand as a premier destination. Participation in the **World Travel Market (WTM) London (5–7 November 2024)** provided an opportunity to showcase Kenya's tourism offerings, with representation from the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) and 15 Kenyan tour operators. The presence of the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife further underscored the Government's commitment to expanding tourism investment and partnerships.

(vi) **Seasonal worker scheme:** In December 2023, the UK government announced 45,000 visas for Seasonal Workers Scheme (SWS) (agricultural employees) for the year 2024. The Mission engaged HOPS one of the authorized recruitment agents to consider Kenya for the SWS. The recruitment is done at selected Kenyan TVETs and Agricultural training institutes. The successful candidates secure a six-month attachment opportunity to learn and earn in various UK agricultural farms.

Through collaboration between the Kenya High Commission in London and HOPS, the first batch of ninety-eight young Kenyans was recruited in January 2024 on pilot bases. To date HOPS has undertaken 6 recruitment drives and 3,000 Kenyans have been placed in UK farms. In the 2024/2025 financial year, the Mission facilitated HOPS to carry out the 5th and 6th recruitment drives in Kenya where a total of 1,009 Kenyans were recruited. The recruitment drives also entailed ascertaining that Kenya's recruitment practices were aligned to responsible recruitment practices, a requirement Kenya met.

To further strengthen this scheme, the State Department of Diaspora Affairs signed an MOU with HOPS in May 2025. Another MOU was signed with GR8, a leading recruitment agency, to enhance recruitment of Kenyans in the UK.

To further strengthen the scheme, an additional recruiter, **Pro Force**, undertook a visit to Kenya from **16th to 20th March 2026** to facilitate the recruitment of seasonal workers for UK farms.

3.2.5 Kenya's volume and balance of trade with the UK from 2015-2025?

181. Kenya-UK trade relations remain warm and cordial, with steadily increasing trade volumes over time.
182. The total volume of trade grew from **Kshs.95.59 billion** in 2023 to **Kshs.105.73 billion** in 2024, with Kenya's exports rising significantly from **Kshs.44.77 billion** to **Kshs.60.96 billion**, while imports increased from **Kshs.40.91 billion** to **Kshs.44.77 billion**, resulting in a trade surplus in favour of Kenya.
183. As at 30 September 2025, total trade stood at approximately **Kshs.340 billion** (£2.1 billion), reflecting an 11.9% increase, driven by a 14% growth in exports and an 8% rise in imports.
184. Kenya's key exports include animal and vegetable products, as well as beverages such as tea and coffee, while major imports from the UK include machinery, pharmaceuticals, and motor vehicles.
185. Despite this growth, trade can be further enhanced by addressing non-tariff barriers such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, rules of origin, customs procedures, and intellectual property rights.
186. The trend of Kenya-UK from 2015-2025 is summarized in Table 7.

Table 7: Kenya-UK Trade Trend (2015–2025)

Period	Trade Trend	Key Characteristics
2015-2019	Steady Growth	Gradual increase in trade volumes driven by agricultural exports (tea, coffee, horticulture); stable trade relations.
2020–2021	COVID-19 Disruption	Moderate decline/disruptions due to global supply chain challenges; resilience in essential goods trade.
2022–2023	Recovery Phase	Rebound in trade volumes; improved demand and logistics; exports begin to strengthen
2024	Growth Acceleration	Trade volume reached Kshs. 105.73 billion; exports outpaced imports; favourable trade balance for Kenya.
2025 (Jan– Sept)	Expansion Phase	Trade reached approx. Kshs. 340 billion (£2.1 billion); 11.9% growth; strong export performance (14% increase).

Source: Kenyan High Commission in London Submissions

3.2.6 Defence Relations

187. Over the past 60 years, Kenya and the United Kingdom have maintained a strong and evolving defence relationship. This partnership was formalized through the Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA), consented to in July 2021. The agreement includes a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Kenya and the British Government, facilitating the

- involvement of the British military in providing training support to Kenyan counterparts for a five-year period ending in 2026.
188. The defence partnership has since expanded to include broader areas of security collaboration, such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, and joint military exercises. It also encompasses cooperation in cyber security, education and research in defence, and the development of defence and security industries in both countries.
 189. During the review of the Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) resubmitted on 22nd November 2022, the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations recommended approval with two reservations: first, that Article 6(5) be amended to include murder under the jurisdiction of the Host Nation, and second, that Article 23 incorporate Corporate Social Responsibility. The Committee's report was tabled on 21st March 2023, debated, and adopted by the House on 13th April 2023, thereby approving ratification with the stated reservations. However, unresolved issues between Kenya and the UK have stalled ratification, leaving the 2015 DCA expired in 2021 and the 2021 DCA unratified, which raises a legal concern regarding the framework under which BATUK continues to conduct training. raised its reservations emanating from the Committee's inquiry into conduct of British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) operations in respect ethical breaches, human rights violations, BATUK's operational integrity, safety protocols and compliance with legal requirements,
 190. It's on the above basis that the delegation sought to engage the UK House of Commons Defence Committee to strengthen parliamentary-to-parliamentary cooperation and exchange perspectives on defence and security matters. This meeting, however, could not take place as the House was in recess at the time of the request, and the Mission has undertaken to follow up in order to identify a suitable time for both delegations to convene.

3.2.7 Consular Matters

191. UK is host to a large Kenyan Diaspora community estimated to be over 144,000 (as of 2021 Office of National Statistics) but those without papers are estimated to be more than double this number.
192. The Mission offers a wide range of consular services to Kenyans and foreigners:
 - Passports processing
 - Emergency Travel documents
 - Regaining of Kenyan citizenship.
 - Declaration of Dual citizenship
 - Identity cards processing
 - Processing of duplicate birth certificates
 - Birth certificates for Kenya citizens born abroad.
 - Authentication of official documents
 - Processing applications for No impediment to marriage
 - Processing application for duplicate marriage certificates
 - Processing applications for duplicate death certificates
 - Issuance of Pet Import Licences
 - Consular visits to Kenyans in distress
 - Interview of persons to be removed from UK to determine Kenya citizenship.
 - Processing applications for Certificates of Good Conduct

- Issuance of no-objection letter for shipment of remains/ashes of deceased Kenyans
 - Issuance of Electronic Travel Authorizations (eta)
 - Advisory services to foreigners on Kenya work permits for work, investment, and Residence
193. During the Financial year 2024-2025, 10898 passports, 433 Identity cards, 419 Declaration for Dual Citizenship, 86 Regaining Kenya citizenship and 393 Birth Certificates were processed and issued, among others. From July 2025 to March 2026, 825 passports, 271 Identity cards, 71 Regaining of Kenya citizenship, 316 Declaration of dual citizenship, 276 Birth certificates have been processed and issued among other services.

(i) Mobile Consular Services

194. When funds permit, the Mission provides Mobile Consular services to reach more Kenyans. As part of this outreach programme, from March 2023 to July 2024 we have deployed Mobile Consular services to **12 locations** within the United Kingdom. So far, the following places have been covered: Reading (x2), Glasgow, Wrexham (Wales), Edinburgh, Jersey, Belfast, Leicester, Leeds, Bristol, Ealing, Coventry.
195. The High Commission staff also facilitated mobile consular services at the Embassy of Kenya, Dublin in June 2023.
196. While the Mission intended to provide Mobile Consular services during both the previous and current financial years, implementation was hindered by limited funding. Nevertheless, we maintain active engagement with Kenyans through various forums and participation in Kenyan events.

(ii) Diaspora Engagement Events

197. The Mission organized has held /facilitated the following events, among others:
- a Presidential Diaspora Engagement meeting on 2 July 2025, during which the Head of State participated in a question-and-answer session with members of the Kenyan diaspora. The Principal Secretary for Housing delivered a presentation regarding the Affordable Housing initiative and encouraged Kenyans living abroad to consider investing in the project;
 - Jamhuri day celebrations on 11th December 2025;
 - H.E the High Commissioner met with the Kenyans in South Wales in February 2026 and in Jersey Islands in March 2026;
 - The Mission, together with the State Department of Medical Services and Vice Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, held an engagement with Kenyan Medical Professionals in the UK on 20th March 2026 at the sidelines of the UK Africa health Summit; and
 - Mission officers also attended the Kenya Nurses & Midwives Association UK conference in Reading on 21 March 2026, where they presented an address concerning consular services.

(iii) Consular Webinars

198. To enhance collaboration between the High Commission and Kenyans in the diaspora, and to increase awareness on consular matters, the Mission organized a series of webinars and presentations in partnership with the Kenya Communities Chairpersons Council. Sessions were held with KCCC leadership on 22nd August 2025, followed by meetings with Kenyans in

- the diaspora on 10th October, 7th November, and 5th December 2025. Each forum was attended by over one hundred participants, demonstrating excellent engagement.
199. These events have received positive feedback and generated valuable suggestions for further improvement.
200. Ms. Alicent Odipo, Immigration Attachee, was awarded the 2024 Consul of the Year Award by the Embassy Networking for Diplomats in recognition of her outstanding consular services rendered to Kenyans in UK.

(iv) Removal of Kenyans from the UK

201. The UK authorities have increased the enforcement of immigration laws by removing individuals lacking legal permission to remain for a variety of reasons, including violation of visa conditions, overstaying visas, denial of asylum, and criminal convictions. Removals are conducted both voluntarily and through enforced procedures. The Mission assists with the issuance of Emergency Travel Documents once copies of Kenyan documents are verified and conducts interviews with those without documentation to determine claimed Kenyan citizenship.
202. Since 2022, the Mission has processed forty cases, approving twenty-four emergency travel documents. Seven individuals have departed, eleven are currently detained, while the remainder are not detained. Additionally, two Kenyans have been assisted to depart voluntarily.

(v) Student's Welfare

203. There are approximately 5,700 Kenyan students in the UK. In 2024-2025 fiscal year approximately 1,400 students joined UK universities. The General Data Protection Regulation has made it difficult to capture data of the students in the United Kingdom since individual students must give authority to access their information.
204. During the FY2024/25 the Mission undertook the following:
- Coordinated a welcome orientation meeting for new Kenyan UK Universities students in October 2024 and a students' webinar on financial stewardship in February 2025, in partnership with the Kenyan UK diaspora leadership and Kenyan Dons in the UK.
 - Conducted ten outreach programs to the following universities; Coventry, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Oxford, Nottingham, Kings College and University of London.
 - Organized a round table collaboration meeting with the Kenyan UK academics at the University of Nottingham in November 2024, to explore areas for collaboration between Kenya and UK on research, students and faculty exchange programs, resource mobilization, transnational Education and sharing of best practices for the mutual benefit of the two countries.
 - Organized welcoming events for the year 2024/2025 cohorts of Chevening and Commonwealth scholars in November 2024 and Feb 2025 respectively, at the Chancery.
 - On 29th June 2025, the Mission in partnership with the Kenyan Dons in the UK Universities and the Kenyan diaspora leadership organized a Webinar for post graduate University students. The objective was to advise the students on modalities of securing scholarships and research funds. The webinar was also attended by 250 Kenyan students studying in Kenyan Universities.

- On 19th June 2025 the Mission in partnership with Kenya Society, a Kenya Diaspora Association organized a university students' career fair for Kenyan students in UK. The aim of the career fair was to sensitize students on career choice and job searching tips. The High Commissioner gave a keynote address.
205. Mr. Willie Machochi Weru, Education Attachee, won the overall Education attaché of the year award and received a trophy on 23rd July 2024 in a conference held at King's College London, emerging as the best performing Education attaché serving in the UK.

(g) Welfare of Kenyans

206. The Mission remains committed to promoting the well-being of Kenyans residing in the United Kingdom. In various forums, it encourages Kenyans to register with the Mission to facilitate effective communication and ensure timely assistance during emergencies.
207. Additionally, Kenyans are urged to participate in local Kenyan community groups to strengthen social connections and mutual support.
208. The Mission provides assistance to Kenyans in distress. Most recently, it was actively engaged in the search for a missing Kenyan national, Ms. Edna Ombakho, who was unfortunately found deceased. Furthermore, through collaboration with the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, the Mission assisted in the repatriation of the remains of Peninah Muiruri, a nurse discovered deceased in her UK residence without known contacts and is currently assisting in the repatriation of Hannah Wanjiku Kamau, a Kenyan Citizen who died in Oxford.
209. Additionally, there were 21 other requests for repatriation of Kenyans who lost their lives in the United Kingdom. The Mission facilitated their families with certificates of no objection to enable the remains to be repatriated to Kenya.
210. The Mission also collaborates with UK security agencies in responding to Kenyans in distress, attending to arrested persons and in certain cases dealing with cases of murder and domestic abuse.

3.2.8 Assets Owned by the Mission and Asset Management Plan

211. The Government of Kenya owns three properties in London as follows:

(i) 78 Winnington Road, London (High Commissioner Residence)

212. This property is a freehold property that serves as the official residence for the High Commissioner.
213. 78 Winnington Road is now a freehold property fully owned by the Government of Kenya. Previously, the property was held under a 999-year leasehold in the name of Great Peter Nominees Ltd, acting in trust for the Republic of Kenya, with the freehold owned by Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd. This arrangement has since been resolved through successful acquisition of the freehold, and a freehold title has been issued by HM Land Registry.

(ii) 48 Connaught Drive, London (Deputy Head of Mission Residence)

214. The freehold property is occupied by the Deputy Head of Mission.
215. In April 2023, the Government decided to carry out a comprehensive renovation of the Government-owned house at 48 Connaught Drive. The works included; renovation of a leaking roof, replacement of the ceiling; and the heating system (gas boiler, piping and radiators); fitting of a new plumbing system and sanitary fittings; new floor finishes (tiles and wall to wall carpet); replacement of dilapidated windows and doors; general paint work; replacement of dilapidated kitchen with new bespoke kitchen; new wardrobes; overhaul of

- electrical installations and minor external works. The contract was awarded to Bravo Projects Limited at a cost of £665,000 to commence on 28th April 2023 and complete on 11th March 2024. However, due to delays in payments the project's completion date was extended to 25th January 2025. The house was officially handed over to the Mission on 30th June 2025.
216. The freehold ownership of the High Commissioner and Deputy Head Mission residences has the following implications for long-term planning:
- (i) **Full Control Over the Property:** Freehold ownership grants the Government of Kenya complete control over the property, eliminating the need for third-party consent (e.g., former freeholder) for major renovations or structural changes—subject only to local planning regulations.
 - (ii) **Elimination of Premium Costs:** Previously, the freeholder demanded a premium of GBP 650,000 to approve value enhancing renovations. With freehold ownership, such costs are no longer applicable, making future capital projects more financially predictable.
 - (iii) **Improved Strategic Flexibility:** The Government can now plan long-term upgrades, redevelopment, or repurposing of the property without leasehold restrictions, enabling better alignment with diplomatic and residential needs.
 - (iv) **Enhanced Asset Value and Security:** Freehold tenure generally increases property value and provides long-term security, as there is no diminishing lease term or risk of reversion.
 - (v) **Simplified Legal and Administrative Processes:** Ownership is now direct, removing the complexity of trust arrangements and leasehold obligations, which reduces legal risks and administrative burdens.

(iii) 48 Connaught Drive, London (Chancery)

217. The Mission has operated from 45 Portland Place under a long-term lease originally granted in 1957 for a period of 65 years, which expired in October 2021. Upon expiry, the freeholder, *Howard de Walden Estate Ltd*, assumed full control and required the Mission to transition to a tenancy arrangement at a market rent of GBP 568,250 per annum, with a temporary concessional rent of GBP 350,000 offered on the understanding that Kenya would pursue purchase of the property.
218. The Government of Kenya has now successfully secured a long-term interest in the property through acquisition of a 999-year lease at a total cost of **£16,250,000** (approximately **Kshs.2,843,750,000.00**). The Mission is waiting for the title documents from HRM Registry.
219. Upon approval by the Cabinet, acquisition of the Chancery entailed the following procurement process:
- The Kenya High Commission in London is a strategically important mission that supports Kenya's foreign policy objectives and serves a large diaspora community in the United Kingdom. The Mission has operated from 45 Portland Place under a long-term lease originally granted in 1957 for a period of 65 years, which expired in October 2021.
 - Upon expiry of the lease, the property reverted to the freeholder, Howard de Walden Estate Ltd. The Mission subsequently entered into short-term tenancy arrangements at a concessional rent of **£350,000** per annum, below the market rate of **£568,250**, on the understanding that the Government of Kenya would pursue acquisition of the property.
 - Efforts to acquire a permanent Chancery commenced in October 2021 through an open tender process, which was unsuccessful due to non-responsiveness. Authority was subsequently granted for restricted tendering; however, the process was terminated following a professional review.
 - A second procurement process resulted in the identification of a preferred bidder but was cancelled in May 2023 due to procedural concerns, specifically that approvals had been granted during the political transition period following the August 2022 General Election, contrary to guidance from the Head of Public Service.
 - A fresh procurement process was initiated in September 2023 through an open and competitive method in compliance with Article 227 of the Constitution and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015. This process identified Howard de Walden Estate Ltd-the current landlord-as the lowest evaluated and responsive bidder.
 - In June 2024, the Government of Kenya successfully concluded negotiations with the freeholder and secured a 999-year leasehold interest (virtual freehold) in 45 Portland Place at a cost of **£16,250,000**. The full purchase price has been paid, and the conveyancing process, including transfer and registration of title, is ongoing.
 - During the procurement period, the Mission continued to benefit from concessional rental terms, avoiding exposure to full market rates and mitigating financial strain.
220. With the ownership of the Chancery, the Mission will make annual rental savings of **£585,000** equivalent to **Ksh.103,000,000.00**.
221. In addition to value for money, the acquisition of the Chancery presents significant additional benefits, particularly in terms of asset appreciation and reduction of operational risks. The additional benefits include:

- (i) Firstly, the property is located in a prime central London location, where real estate values have historically demonstrated strong long-term capital appreciation. The acquisition therefore not only secures a diplomatic asset but also represents a strategic investment with potential for sustained increase in capital value over time.
 - (ii) Secondly, ownership of the property substantially reduces exposure to operational and financial risks associated with leasing arrangements. These include escalating rental costs, uncertainty arising from lease renewals, and the risk of non-renewal or termination by the landlord. By securing a long-term tenure, the Government eliminates these uncertainties and ensures continuity of diplomatic operations.
 - (iii) Additionally, ownership reduces recurrent expenditure pressures and provides greater predictability in long-term financial planning, while also enabling better control over maintenance, security, and adaptation of the premises to meet evolving operational needs.
 - (iv) Overall, the acquisition enhances both financial resilience and operational stability, while safeguarding Kenya's long-term diplomatic presence in a key global capital.
222. The acquisition of the Chancery in London is fully aligned with the Government's broader strategy of securing permanent premises for Kenya's diplomatic missions abroad. This strategy emphasizes transitioning from leased properties to owned assets in key global capitals in order to enhance operational stability, reduce long-term recurrent expenditure, and strengthen Kenya's diplomatic footprint.
223. Owning the Chancery in London supports prudent financial management by eliminating exposure to escalating rental costs in a high-value property market, thereby delivering long-term cost efficiency and value for money. It also ensures continuity of operations by mitigating risks associated with lease expiries, tenancy uncertainties, and potential relocation disruptions.
224. Furthermore, the acquisition reinforces Kenya's commitment to maintaining a strong and credible diplomatic presence in strategically important locations, while safeguarding national interests and improving service delivery to the diaspora.
225. The acquisition therefore secures Kenya's diplomatic presence in a key global city, ensure long-term cost efficiency, and safeguard the operational stability of the Mission.
226. The Mission appraised the delegation that it will ensure optimal utilization of the property to justify the investment by adopting the following measures:
- (i) Firstly, the property will be fully utilized to accommodate all core functions of the Mission, including diplomatic offices, consular services, and diaspora engagement activities, thereby eliminating the need for additional leased spaces. This consolidation will enhance coordination, improve service delivery, and reduce operational costs.
 - (ii) Secondly, the Mission will adopt efficient space management practices, ensuring that all available areas are purposefully allocated and regularly reviewed to match evolving operational needs. This includes flexible use of meeting rooms, multi-purpose spaces for official functions, and integration of modern workplace solutions to maximize capacity.
 - (iii) Thirdly, the property will serve as a strategic asset for advancing Kenya's economic diplomacy by hosting trade, investment, and cultural promotion events. This will enhance Kenya's visibility and strengthen bilateral relations, thereby generating indirect economic returns.
 - (iv) Additionally, regular maintenance and asset management plans will be implemented to preserve the property's value and functionality over the long term, ensuring sustainability of the investment.

227. The transition from an expired lease and short-term tenancy to a 999-year leasehold interest significantly strengthens the Government of Kenya's position. It restores tenure security, enables effective long-term planning, and ensures that the Chancery remains in a strategic and stable location while delivering long-term financial and operational benefits.

3.2.9 Current State of Maintenance and Usability of Assets Owned by the Mission

228. The state of maintenance and usability of the properties owned is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: State of Maintenance and Usability of London Mission Owned Properties

Property	Maintenance/Usability Status	Priority/Urgency
1. 45 Portland Place (Chancery)	Requires extensive renovations; no major updates in 40 years, affecting functionality and condition.	High -urgent renovation needed include: • Installation of Fire Alarm System that is not in place • Need for Metal Detector at the entrance (the system stopped working in 2015). • Lift upgrade • Replacement of the heating system (gas boiler, piping and radiators) • Overhaul of electrical installations • Replacement of dilapidated windows and doors, • New plumbing and sanitary system; primarily to comply with the UK government health and safety requirements and to save on maintenance costs.
2. 78 Wincington Rd (Ambassador's Residence)	Minor renovations done; additional repairs still required.	Medium -address the following repairs soon: • Fixing of the broken fence • Roof • Renovation of the wooden floor • Garage • Backyard veranda
3. 48 Connaught Dr (Deputy Head of Mission Residence)	The property was recently renovated (£ 665,000) and is in a good shape with routine maintenance needed.	Low -routine upkeep sufficient

Source: Kenyan High Commission in London Submissions

3.2.10 Meeting with the Kenyan Diaspora Community

229. During its inspection visit to the Kenya High Commission in London, the delegation held an engaging and insightful session with more than 25 members of the Kenyan Diaspora living in the United Kingdom.

230. The discussion began with reflections on what is working well. Diaspora members commended the High Commission for significantly improving access to consular services. Many noted that they can now walk into the Mission and receive timely assistance, a marked improvement from past experiences.

231. On areas requiring enhancement, participants called for a simplified Kenyan passport application process, particularly for children born abroad, where some of the current requirements do not apply. They also proposed the establishment of cultural centres, developed through partnerships between government and diaspora communities, to help Kenyan children in the UK learn and preserve their cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from successful models in countries such as Israel and Rwanda.
232. The Diaspora community also highlighted several pressing challenges. Foremost was the absence of a structured fund to support the repatriation of deceased Kenyans abroad, a gap that places immense emotional and financial strain on families. They emphasized the need for a formal repatriation fund to ensure dignified and timely support during such difficult moments.
233. Additionally, they underscored the importance of a comprehensive pre departure training programme for Kenyans travelling overseas. Such a package, they suggested, should provide essential guidance on cultural expectations, legal frameworks, weather conditions, and available support systems in destination countries. They further recommended linking new arrivals with leaders of diaspora associations to ease settlement, strengthen community bonds, and provide reliable assistance when challenges arise.
234. Finally, the community also called for urgent action against illegal recruitment agencies that mislead and exploit vulnerable Kenyans seeking employment opportunities abroad. Addressing these fraudulent practices, they noted, is essential to safeguarding the welfare and dignity of Kenyan citizens pursuing opportunities overseas.

3.2.11 Mission Budget

235. In FY 2025/26 the mission budget is Kshs.1,117,412,487 of which recurrent is Kshs.549,412,487 while development is Kshs.568,000,000. The status of funding releases (AIEs and Exchequer), including receipt and utilization of disbursed funds is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: London Mission Status of Funding Releases for FY 2025/26

	2025/2026 Allocation (Kshs.)	AIE Issues (Kshs.)	Funding (£)	Remarks
Recurrent	549,412,487.00	404,753,496.00	2,206,677.37	9 Months fully funded
Development				
Refurbishment of Buildings	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	51,289.45	Second Half AIE not funded
Purchase of Buildings	550,000,000.00	500,000,000.00	2,849,413.62	AIE fully funded
AIA	14,000,000.00	10,500,000.00	-	

Source: Kenyan High Commission in London Submissions

236. The utilization of the mission budget for FY 2025/26 is shown in Table 10.

Table 10: London Budget Utilization as at 31st March 2026 for FY 2025/26

Details	Allocation	Absorption	Absorption Rate (%)	Remarks
Recurrent	404,753,496.00	374,779,042.36	92.59	
Development				
Renovation of Buildings	18,000,000.00	16,236,500.00	90.2	
Purchase of Buildings	500,000,000.00	2,281,673,835.00	456.33	Excess expenditure was settled through previous years disbursements
AIA	10,500,000.00	21,151,550.00	201.44	Request sent to HQ to enhance AIA allocation

Source: Kenyan High Commission in London Submissions

3.2.12 Issues of Concern

237. The Committee noted that the Kenya High Commission in London the following operational and structural challenges that continue to affect effective service delivery and full implementation of its mandate:

- (i) **Delayed and Inadequate Exchequer Funding:** The Mission continues to experience delays in exchequer releases as well as insufficient budgetary allocations. This constrains timely implementation of planned programmes, contributes to low budget absorption, and adversely affects the welfare of staff. It also limits the Mission's ability to respond effectively to emerging operational demands.
- (ii) **Foreign Exchange Losses:** The current budgeting framework, where funds are appropriated in one currency and executed in another, exposes the Mission to significant foreign exchange losses. These losses reduce effective spending power and place additional strain on already limited resources.
- (iii) **Incompatibility of Procurement Framework:** The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015, presents operational challenges in the UK context. In particular, requirements such as mandatory open tendering and advertisement, as well as misalignment with local procurement norms (including advance payment requirements), complicate implementation of capital projects. This has resulted in increased costs and delays, and in some cases renders small-scale projects economically unviable.
- (iv) **High Cost of Services and Infrastructure Maintenance:** The high cost of labour and services in the United Kingdom significantly impacts the Mission's budget. Additionally, the prevailing "do-it-yourself" service culture, combined with ageing Chancery infrastructure and official residences, results in frequent breakdowns of critical systems such as electrical, plumbing, heating, and fire safety systems. Current budget provisions are insufficient to address these recurring maintenance needs in compliance with UK health and safety standards.
- (v) **Coordination Challenges with MDAs:** Delayed responses and limited feedback from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Nairobi continue to hinder timely service delivery. This is particularly evident in consular services such as processing of national identity cards, police clearance certificates (certificate of good conduct), birth certificates, and documents from the Registrar of Marriages, all of which are centrally processed in Kenya.
- (vi) **Promotional Materials and Protocol Gifts:** The Mission faces persistent shortages of promotional materials required for trade fairs, tourism expos, and public diplomacy engagements. In addition, protocol gifts—an essential diplomatic tool for courtesy visits and stakeholder engagement—are often unavailable or insufficient. This limits the Mission's ability to effectively project Kenya's image and advance its economic and diplomatic interests.
- (vii) **Operational and Service Delivery Constraints:** The Mission further notes the following operational challenges:
 - a) Inadequate funding affecting overall service delivery capacity;
 - b) Delays in document processing at Headquarters, impacting responsiveness to clients; and
 - c) Difficulties in determining citizenship status for individuals with inconsistent or incomplete identification records.

CHAPTER THREE

4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

238. Having participated in the oversight visit, the delegation made the following observations and recommendations:

4.1 Observations

4.1.1 General Observations

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

4.1.2 Specific Observations

(i) Paris Mission:

- 245. France remains Kenya's 5th largest investor, with relations strengthened through high-level exchanges, defence cooperation, and support for Kenya's international candidatures.
- 246. Accreditation to Portugal, Monaco, Serbia, and the Holy See expands Kenya's diplomatic footprint, though relations with Serbia were strained by Kosovo recognition.
- 247. Online appointment systems and mobile consular services have improved efficiency, but the diaspora in France remains fragmented.
- 248. 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.
- 249. Trade balance favors France (exports USD 113m vs imports USD 235m), despite facilitation of business delegations and tourism promotion.

(ii) London Mission:

- 250. 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.
- 251. Foreign exchange losses due to budgeting in one currency and execution in another significantly reduce effective spending power.
- 252. 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.
- 253. Accreditation limited to the UK, but multilateral coverage includes the Commonwealth Secretariat and IMO.

254. The 2021 Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) remains unratified due to unresolved issues, raising legal concerns over BATUK's training framework.

4.2 Recommendations

255. 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.
256. 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.
257. 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.
258. 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.
259. 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.
260. 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.

SIGNED:

DATE:

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

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 27 AUG 2026	
DAY: Thursday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Bashir Abdullahi MP (Vice-Chairperson)
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	honnale



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 EMBASSIES IN FRANCE AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM

7TH – 15TH APRIL 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)	
3.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, CBS, M.P.	
4.	The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.	
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..	
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.	