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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EIGHTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION**

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE  
AND FOREIGN RELATIONS  
ON A VISIT TO KENYA HIGH COMMISSION,  
LONDON AND KENYA EMBASSY IN BERLIN**

**APRIL 31 TO MAY 4, 2001**

KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
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**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
NAIROBI**

**MAY, 2001**

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE DELEGATION

|                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Hon. David Musila, M.P.        | - | Member for Mwingi South (KANU)<br>(CHAIRMAN)              |
| Hon. Sulleman Kamolleh, M.P    | - | Member for Matuga (KANU)                                  |
| Hon. David Mwenje, MP          | - | Member for Embakasi (DP)                                  |
| Hon. Dr. Oburu Oginga, MP      | - | Member for Bondo (NDP)                                    |
| Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, M.P.- | - | Member for Kimilili (FK)                                  |
| Mr. Justin N. Bundi            | - | Principal Clerk Assistant/<br>Secretary to the delegation |

## INTRODUCTION

1.0 One of the Principal mandates of the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations is to enquire into the implementation of Kenya's foreign policy on behalf of the National Assembly. The Committee has exercised this function effectively through regular interaction with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on key issues that affect our international relations. The Committee has spent considerable time discussing the Treaty on the East African Community and the East African Community Bill. The views of the Committee were adopted by the House. The Committee has also taken interest in the relationship between Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia the Sudan and other countries. Early last year the Committee made a very successful visit to Liberia and Sierra Leone to assess the working conditions of the Kenyan contingent that had been deployed

on a peace keeping mission in Sierra Leone where some Kenyan soldiers were taken hostage. The Committee successfully negotiated the release of the Kenyan and other United Nations Soldiers through meetings with President Charles Taylor of Liberia and President Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone . They also met other high ranking Government officials in the West African region.

- 1.1. The Committee has also discussed with the Minister the issue of representation of Kenya in our foreign missions. To gain an insight into the functions and operations of the missions, the Committee undertook a visit to the Kenya High Commission in London and the Kenya Embassy in Berlin, Germany, between 31st April and 4th May, 2001. Besides the visit to the Kenya Mission in Berlin, the Committee held a meeting with the Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag, Mr. Ulrich Klose. The German Foreign Affairs Committee delegation headed by the vice-chairman had visited the Kenya National Assembly last year, and held very informative discussions with the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations. The visit to Germany was therefore a return visit.
- 1.2. While in Berlin, the Committee also held meetings with Countess Strachwitz, Director of African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Michael Gerdts, former German Ambassador to Kenya, and currently Head of the United Nations Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND VISITS

### Kenya High Commission, London

2.0 The Committee held informative and valuable discussions with the Kenya High Commissioner to London, H.E Mrs. Nancy Kirui, and the Chief officers in the Mission. The High Commission informed the Committee that the duties of the mission are mainly trade and promotion of national interests, and that the mission covers Ireland and Switzerland. Mrs. Kirui also informed the Committee that they proposed to open consular services in Edinburgh and Wales to coordinate the growing demands for services from the High Commission. She thanked the government for re-introducing Visa charges which has helped the mission generate Appropriations -in- Aid to help finance essential services such as transport and personnel costs.

2.1. The High Commissioner informed the Committee that due to the strategic location of the London Mission in relation to other capitals of the world, the demand for services, particularly transport, is very high and the funds allocated to transport and entertainment are usually exhausted very fast.

The Committee learnt that, unlike during the reign of the conservative Government, not many MPs in the House of Commons

knew much about Kenya. Majority of MPs have interest in continental Europe and the new markets in Asia. Nevertheless as a whole, Kenya and U.K. enjoy friendly and cordial relations.

- 2.3. On the duties of the public relations consultant, Patrick Orr and Associates, the Committee was informed that he carried out public relations duties on behalf of Kenya. He collates all information on national papers and advises on how the mission should respond. The Committee was further informed that he also advises our missions in Europe and Japan. Mrs. Kirui also informed the Committee that the public relations consultants have been very useful because they understand the Europeans better and are very experienced, as opposed to the government officials who do not stay in London long enough to appreciate fully the intricate and complex political and economic activities. On whether the public Relations agency is cost effective, the Committee was informed that it was difficult to quantify.
- 2.4. On trade, the Committee was informed that the United Kingdom is Kenya's leading export market after Uganda. The combined trade between Kenya and U.K. makes U.K. our biggest bilateral trade partner. In 2000 Kenya managed to reverse the balance of trade from UK's favour to Kenya's. In monetary terms, the value of Kenya's exports in 2000 was £190.3m (\$275m) while that of British exports to Kenya was £ 114m (\$165.6 million). The differences in favour of Kenya is £ 17.3m (\$25 million).

2.5. The Committee learnt that Kenya's exports to Britain continue to be mainly from primary products, e.g. tea, horticultural products, coffee, canned pineapples, etc and only a few miscellaneous manufactured articles of low value e.g. handcrafts, tobacco, malt extract, textiles, beer, furniture etc. Exports from U.K. continue to be high value manufactured products such as textile fibres, telecommunication equipment, machinery specialized for particular industries, motor vehicles, medical, pharmaceutical products, electrical machinery, etc. The Committee also noted that U.K. is still the largest foreign investor in Kenya with the value of investments estimated to be over £ 693m (\$1 billion). The challenge to Kenya is to continue to attract foreign investments, and also to improve technology through training that would support manufacture for export in other markets of Africa, where Kenya has competitive advantage.

2.6. On Tourism, the Committee noted that the UK is the second biggest source of tourists to Kenya after Germany. Tourists to Kenya in 2000 were 158,000 and they preferred visiting Masai Mara, the Coastal region and the Mt. Kenya region. The challenge is to promote new emerging destinations in Western Kenya, Meru region, Laikipia region, etc. The Committee was informed that package holidays constituted 80% while independent travelers were 20%. The Kenya Tourism Board had not yet appointed consultants to Market Tourism and to counter negative publicity which is a big



threat to the growth of Tourism industry. Currently, issues regarding Tourism are managed by the Commercial attaché', a heavy responsibility considering other demands on the office without additional staff.

## **VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

### **Meeting with Staff of Kenya Mission in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany**

- 3.0 The Committee held very informative meetings with the Charge d' Affairs and other officials of the mission. The Committee learnt that the mission was among the first to relocate from Bonn to Berlin after the change of the administrative capital. Although the move was very commendable by the German Government it brought other challenges. The house rents are double in Berlin, and that landlords prefer to sell premises to renting. The mission has four residential houses in Bonn which they have advertised for sale to raise funds to buy residential houses in Berlin.
- 3.1. The mission is also accredited to Rumania and Bulgaria. Although the mission can effectively cover issues within Berlin, financial constraints would not enable the mission to cover the other major towns in Germany and the other two countries of accreditation.
- 3.2. The Committee was informed that there is a large population of Kenyan students in Germany, most of whom are in the major towns



of Germany, and that some join the universities and leave without visiting the mission except when they encounter difficulties. The mission had no sufficient knowledge of the students in the country which led to wastage in the allocation of bursaries. Some students continue to receive bursary long after they have left universities and colleges while others have secured employment and some even married. This is compounded further by the fact that the mission has very little details about the bursaries and the students studying in Germany. Although the mission has assigned an officer to deal with education matters, the Ministry of Education should endeavor to furnish the Embassy on details about the students in Germany, particularly those awarded bursaries so that the Embassy may advise the Ministry on any change of status by the students awarded scholarships.

- 3.3. Since re-introduction of visa charges on visitors to Kenya, the mission has been able to improve on the provision of essential services. The immigration section nevertheless would perform better with a modernized visa section in tandem with modern technological development to reduce the possibility of forgery.
- 3.4. Policies prohibiting employment of some spouses of home based staff is demoralizing, particularly to the professionals. It was however reported that spouses of staff in other missions in Berlin secure employment. The issue of employment of spouses should be pursued along with the need to review the foreign service

allowances to enable our diplomats live comfortably and perform their duties effectively.

3.5. On trade, Germany is Kenya's 4<sup>th</sup> most important trading partner after the United Kingdom, Uganda and Tanzania. Kenya's export to Germany is mainly agricultural produce. Coffee and horticultural products made 80% of our exports to Germany in 1998 and the first half of 1999. Tea exports to Germany has been decreasing since 1993. Kenya's tea export share to Germany has been taken by India, China, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. To regain the market, the Tea Board should market our tea more aggressively, and increase production of original rather than adulterated tea which is preferred by many Germans. Kenya's imports from Germany include machinery, engineering goods, motor vehicles and spare parts, electronics and pharmaceutical products.

3.6. On Tourism, Germany is the leading provider of tourists to Kenya. In Africa, South Africa and Tanzania are posing stiff competition, and for Kenya to continue to attract German tourists, it has to improve on security, infrastructure, product diversification and development and undertake more aggressive marketing. The tourism trade has also suffered due to discontinuation of Kenya Airways flights from Frankfurt to Nairobi and Mombasa and Rome to Nairobi and Mombasa due to the KLM & KQ partnership. To attract more tourists, it is necessary for Kenya Airways and the Government to re-consider the Frankfurt route.

3.7. Kenya Tourist office in Frankfurt was formally closed in October, 2000. Its duties have been transferred to the commercial section of the Embassy and will remain there until Kenya Tourist Board has put in place a new structure for marketing Kenya tourist attractions abroad. The closure has added extra load to the commercial section of the Embassy. Kenya Tourist Board should move expeditiously to begin operations.

**Meeting with Countess Strachwitz – Director of African Affairs,  
German Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

4.0. The Committee held informative and valuable discussions with Countess Strachwitz, Director of African Affairs and senior officials, of the African desk. The Committee was interested to hear that the main activities of the office was to convince Germans to be interested in Africa which is commonly perceived as a continent full of crises, wars, epidemics, HIV, Malaria, Ebola etc. She stressed that Embassies have to do a lot of work to inform German citizens about their countries in order to correct the negative publicity.

4.1. On democratization, Countess Strachwitz informed the committee that Kenya is considered to have made a lot of progress. However, a lot is yet to be achieved in alleviating corruption and bribery. In discussing corruption, she emphasized that to strengthen the institutions to fight corruption was more important than individuals

managing the institutions. Establishing a new KACA that is acceptable and efficient could alleviate corruption.

- 4.2. When discussing the issue of peace and security in Kenya, Countess Strachwitz noted that Kenya played a major role in convincing her neighbors about the importance of peace. She further noted that Kenya had played a major role in searching for a peaceful settlement in the conflicts in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She further observed that the proliferation of small arms in Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan was a major contributor to insecurity in Kenya and assured the Committee that Germany will continue to support Kenya at the United Nations in containing the proliferation of small arms.
  
- 4.3. A final matter between the Committee and the Director of African affairs was the establishment of the East African Community which she noted had good prospects of being realized. The Committee informed Countess Statchwitz that the Parliament of Kenya had given full support to the establishment of the Community. The Committee noted that German NGOs especially Friedrich-Ebert Foundation had given a lot of support in strengthening the community institutions.

**Meeting with Mr. Ulrich Klose Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Bundestag**

- 5.0. The Committee met Mr. Ulrich Klose, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, in the company of Mr Rainer Cxeniek Secretary to the Committee. Mr. Klose gave a brief on the operations of the German Foreign Affairs Committee and in particular he explained that his Committee has 40 Members and that parties are proportionately represented. However there is an attempt to reduce the Committee to a more manageable number. Government has a majority but every attempt is made to arrive at decisions by consensus.
- 5.1. The Committee heard that the German government cannot undertake any military deployment without Parliament authorizing. The Foreign Affairs Committee would be required to advise Parliament on the suitability of the venture. The Committee was interested to hear that Ambassadors are vetted by the Committee before they are appointed.
- 5.2. In conducting Committee meetings, the Chairman arranges for a schedule of meetings in consultation with the Party Whips. Committee Sessions are confidential and held in camera. Top Secrets are discussed and no Press is allowed.
- 5.3. In a discussion on diplomacy, the Committee was informed that in co-operation with the government, occasionally the Committee

initiates inquiry on the issues affecting Germany with other countries before it takes them up and more often than not government accepts the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee consults with ambassadors of the Missions represented in Germany and also holds discussions with Ministers visiting Germany on bilateral affairs. To exchange views on issues of common interest, the Committee also holds joint meetings with Committees of Parliaments of other countries.

- 5.4. When discussing the policy on Africa, Mr. Klose informed the Committee that though Germany is very close to Africa through trade, tourism, and other inter-relationships, majority of the politicians do not know much about Africa. Mr. Klose observed that the German Foreign Affairs committee would like to hold discussions with the leadership in Africa but there are very few experts on African affairs. Nevertheless, the Committee is working on a policy to send more people to different countries in Africa to enable them develop knowledge on issues of interest to Germany.
- 5.5 On the Developments in the DRC, the German policy is that no boundaries should be changed, however the developments on the ground are not encouraging since the various powers have developed strongholds with no intentions of letting lose.
- 5.6. In discussing diplomacy in the world with only one Super Power, Mr. Klose said that after World War II, Europe recovered due to the

Marshall plan which was sponsored by the U.S.A. Germans consider U.S.A a partner and her presence in Europe is considered important, but the Chairman observed that the U.S.A. is a partner who is sometimes difficult depending on the party in power.

**Meeting with Dr. Michael Gerdts former German Ambassador to Kenya**

- 6.0. Discussion between the Committee and Dr. Michael Gerdts was focused on the changes taking place since his transfer from Kenya. Dr. Michael Gerdts noted that Kenya had made remarkable changes in the democratization process, but was concerned that the constitution review process had not been concluded and continued to cause tension and to strain relationships between parties, government and civil society.
- 6.1. Dr. Gerdts informed the Committee that what Germans know about Kenya originated from the press and that it is the performance of Kenyans that would shape the image of the country. Dr. Gerdts expressed hope that Kenya will manage the constitution review process, and other reforms peacefully.
- 7.0. **Visit to Check Point Charlie Museum and Remains of Berlin Wall**  
The Kenya mission in Berlin arranged for a visit to the Check- Point Charlie Museum and the remains of the Berlin Wall. The trip allowed the Committee first hand familiarization with aspects of



German history where Germans from East or West had to be cleared at the check point to visit one another.

- 7.1. In addition, a tour of the remains of the Berlin Wall availed the Committee an opportunity to view the remains of the wall that divided Germany after the Second World War which re-ignited memories of the experiences of Germans during the cold war.

#### **8.0. Visit to a German Manufacturing Firm, Bear Gmb H**

The Committee visited a German company dealing with borehole drilling equipment, small scale sugar processing plants, maize mills etc. The Committee made a lot of business contacts and was grateful to the Embassy for the opportunity. The Committee was also pleased to be shown around by a Mr. Njiro, a Kenyan, the production engineer of the Company.

#### **9.0. Visit to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Berlin**

The Committee held a meeting with Mr. Treichel, Executive Officer Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Committee learnt that all businesses must by law register with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Committee was also informed that the companies have a general Assembly, a President and several Committees. Members also heard that it is important to make accurate and precise orders to get a useful response, otherwise enquiries would remain unattended to.

## **10.0. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1. The Committee was impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the staff of the High Commission in London and the Kenya Mission in Berlin, particularly given the very heavy and demanding workload they carry, sometimes in very trying conditions.
- 10.2. The Committee considers that given the demand for services on the two missions, and the meager resources, they had carried their duties extremely well. It is noteworthy that due to the strategic location of London as the hub of communication and the interests Kenyans have in the city, demand on transport and other protocol services place enormous pressure on the resources of the mission.
- 10.3. Germany is a big country with many semi-autonomous regions with substantial Kenyan interests which should be covered satisfactorily by the mission in Berlin. The Committee noted that the Kenya Mission in London is accredited to Ireland and Switzerland while Berlin is accredited to Bulgaria and Rumania. While the Committee is supportive of multiple accreditation, enabling resources should be put at their disposal to make them operate effectively and efficiently.
- 10.4. The Committee noted the disparity in foreign service allowances between different countries and observed that payment of low

allowances especially where spouses are not allowed to work, makes it very difficult for the embassy staff to operate efficiently.

- 10.5. While staff of the Kenya High Commission in London gave an impressive account of the performance of Patrick Orr of Church Orr Public Relations Consultants in combating bad publicity and in promoting the image of Kenya in Britain, it was doubtful whether the remuneration awarded to this company was commensurate with the task performed. The operations of Patrick Orr of Church Orr and Company covered not only Britain but also other European countries including Germany. From the accounts of the Kenya Embassy staff in Berlin, a German national would be more efficient in combating bad publicity and promoting the good image of Kenya.
- 10.6. The Committee shared the sentiments of Dr. Michael Gerdts, former German Ambassador to Kenya and was unanimous that the best publicity for Kenya was by Kenyans cleaning their act at home , by eradicating thuggery, attacks on tourists, reducing street families, improving infrastructure, promoting the rule of law and good governance. This more than anything else would promote the good image of Kenya, and we may not require to spend a fortune hiring expatriate Public Relations Consultants whose performance may not justify the cost on the tax payer.
- 10.7. The Committee shares the sentiments of the officials of the Kenya Missions in London and Berlin that the Ministry of Education should

streamline the disbursement of bursaries to students pursuing education outside the country. The Ministry should regularly and frequently update the Embassies on the list of students awarded bursaries, the amounts, the universities the students are admitted into and when they should complete. This will reduce incidences where bursaries are awarded to students who are no longer pursuing course at universities and other colleges.

10.8. The Committee observed that the policy to transfer the operations of the Overseas Tourist Offices to the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) led to the closure of the offices in London, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Geneva, Los-Angeles, etc before the Kenya Tourist Board could hire officers thereby creating a gap. The Government should urgently operationalise the Kenya Tourism Board in the tourist markets and immediately make arrangements to man those offices.

10.10 The Committee observed the persistent declining sales of Tea in Germany since 1993. The Government should strive to regain this important market and search for more new markets for tea in Europe and Asia.

10.11 Having observed that, the tourism trade has also suffered, due to discontinuation of Kenya Airways flight and Lufthansa German Airline flights from Frankfurt, Rome to Nairobi and Mombasa, the Committee found it necessary for Kenya Airways and the Government to reconsider opening up the Frankfurt and Rome route.

10.12 The Committee observed that during the visit by the Committee in Berlin, Germany, the Kenya Ambassador to Germany left his station for Nairobi only two days before the visit.



**HON. DAVID MUSILA, M.P.**

**LEADER OF THE DELEGATION AND CHAIRMAN  
DEFENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**