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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TENTH PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION**

**REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY BY A KENYAN PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION AT THE INVITATION OF THE GERMAN-EAST AFRICA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

SEPTEMBER 21 TO 26, 2008

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI**

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FOREWARD

INTRODUCCION

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The Kenya National Assembly was invited by the Speaker of the Federal Government of Germany through the German East Africa Friendship Group of the bundestag to visit Germany. The objective of the visit was to exchange ideas on various bilateral issues between the two governments and market Kenya in Germany.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank you Sir, for according us the opportunity to represent the National Assembly at this important forum. The Kenya National Assembly was represented by seven Members drawn from the various political parties in the House as follows:

The Hon Yusuf Kifuma Chanzu, MP and Leader of the delegation

The Hon. Silas Ruteere Muriuki, MP

The Hon. Luka Kipkorir Kigen, MP

The Hon. Maison Leshoomo, MP

The Hon. John Ngo'ng'o Mbadi, MP

The Hon. Nemesyus Warugongo, MP

The Hon. Samuel Kambi Kazungu, MP

Ms. Mary J. Chesire- Secretary to the Delegation

Allow me, Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the members of my delegation to submit the report of the visit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.



Hon. Yusuf Kifuma Chanzu, MP

LEADER OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION

MEETING WITH HERALD BURKHARDT, HEAD OF THE TOURISM DIVISION, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The delegation held discussions with Mr. Herald Burkhardt, Head of the Tourism Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs in Baden Württemberg, one of the states of the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegation was informed that Germany has a very strong economy which relies heavily on industry, tourism, agriculture, etc. Unemployment is very low due to high level of industrialization and expertise in research, automobile industry, etc.

The delegation was impressed that more than 200,000 jobs depend directly on tourism. In total 16million tourists visit Germany every year. This is because it enjoys the benefits of varied landscape, rich natural beauty, outstanding environment values and international arts and culture.

Tourism industry is supported by cultural events for instance in Baden-Württemberg, throughout the year there is a whole string of colourful festivals and events; museums, theatres which are all meant to attract tourists.

The delegation was informed that some of the critical sectors of the economy were infrastructure, marketing, promotion of innovation, competitiveness, compatible structural training and attractiveness of certain areas in that order. They have succeeded in their tourism sector because of their good infrastructure, with an additional 10million Euros allocated by the Federal Government to support tourism.

Though tourism in Germany accounts for 3% of the economy it took them more than 15 years to develop the industry through marketing and improving security among other factors.

MEETING WITH MS. CHRISTA VOSSCHULTE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LAND PARLIAMENT OF BADEN-WURTTENBERG

The delegation held discussions with Ms. Christa Vosschulte, Vice President of the Land Parliament of Baden-Württemberg where she informed the delegation that the Land Parliaments is one of the six parliaments in the Federal Republic of Germany. Each of the states has its own constitution, parliament, government and an independent code.

The population of Baden-Württemberg is 10.7 million with 7.5 voters. She stated that for a party to be eligible to be represented in the parliament it must acquire 5% of the total vote in a general election. In overall administration of the state, the federal government has the sole legislative power as well as sole responsibility on defence and foreign policy while the federation has discretion on issues like university policy among others.

MEETING WITH MR. MULLER-KOELBL, HEAD OF FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The delegation met with Mr. Muller-Koelbl, Head of Foreign Trade Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs. He informed the delegation that development cooperation funding is mainly provided by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In the field of financial cooperation, German bilateral development cooperation projects are implemented by the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW). Technical cooperation projects are mainly carried out by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The German Development Service (DED) supports projects through consultancy inputs by development workers. Numerous non-governmental organizations are also allocated BMZ funding. Several German States provide their own Official Development Assistance (ODA) project funds. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs handles all humanitarian aid as well as contributions to UNICEF and UNHCR.

The delegation was further informed that Germany has placed development issues high on its domestic and political agenda and had made poverty reduction a main priority in its programme of action which is aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The programme recognizes global poverty reduction as an important element in the government's overall policy and an overarching goal of development cooperation. Greater coherence among policies affecting developing countries is now a government-wide priority and is also being pursued internationally, especially with other members of the European Union.

Mr. Muller-Koelbl stated that the German cooperation with each country is based on dialogue with governments and civil society about the partner country's plans and strategies. The German government supports developing countries' efforts to draw up and implement national poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and adopt bilateral cooperation programmes with them.

On global level of assistance the delegation was informed that Germany was currently the fourth largest donor among the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The largest proportion of German ODA is earmarked for sub Saharan Africa (about 34.07%), Asia (27.21%), Latin America (15.19%), Europe and the newly established states (12.96%) Mediterranean region (10.57%). 82.35% of the German bilateral programme is spent on the low income countries. As development assistance must be considered against the background of a globalizing world, a large proportion of the German ODA is channeled through international institutions such as the World Bank, ADB and UNDP to complement bilateral development efforts.

DISCUSSION WITH DR. SUSANNE KASTNER, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG

The delegation paid a courtesy call on the Vice President of the German Bundestag Dr. Susanne Kastner where she gave the delegation a summary of the activities in the Bundestag. She informed the delegation that the German Bundestag plays a key role in the political system of the Federal Republic of Germany and that every time

the Bundestag is elected the people determine anew who should represent their interests. State authority is exercised by the classical triad of legislature, executive and judiciary. In the interplay of the three branches each of which checks and balances the other, the legislative role devolves on the Bundestag.

The Bundestag exercises an important power of scrutiny over the Government. On government projects, the Federal Chancellor depends on the confidence of parliament. In the 16th German Bundestag, there are five parliamentary groups and two non-attached Members, Gert Winkelmeier and Henry Nitzsche. The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) forms the largest parliamentary group with 223 seats, followed by the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) with 222 seats. The Free Democratic Party (FDP) parliamentary group holds 61 seats, The Left Party parliamentary group 53 and The Greens parliamentary group 51. The number of seats they hold determines their relative strengths and is decisive for the composition of the Council of Elders and the committees. The 16th German Bundestag has 612 Members altogether.

On the formation of parliamentary groupings the delegation heard that a parliamentary group is formed by at least five percent of the Members of the German Bundestag, who usually belong to the same party. The formation of a parliamentary group enables them to work together to achieve shared goals. Parties are associations of citizens with similar political ideals hence the members of a party are elected to the Bundestag directly from constituencies.

The plenary, consisting of the entirety of the Members of the German Bundestag, sits and conducts its business in public. The date and agenda for each sitting are agreed in the Council of Elders and communicated to the Federal Government and the Bundesrat. The sittings are conducted by the President of the German Bundestag or one of his or her deputies.

On a motion tabled by one tenth of its Members or the Federal Government, the Bundestag may exclude the public by a two-thirds majority. The public may not be present when the plenary votes on motions of this kind. Through the Bundesrat, the 16 federal states play a part in national legislation. Bills affecting the interests of the federal states require the explicit consent of the Bundesrat. If the Bundestag and

Bundesrat cannot agree on a Bill, they can refer the matter to the Mediation Committee for a compromise.

DISCUSSION WITH MS. PETRA BIERWIRTH, MP, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The delegation met with, Chairwoman of the Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Ms. Petra Bierwirth, MP, where they discussed issues related to environment and conservation.

The delegation heard that the German development cooperation works at three levels internationally, in the partner countries and within Germany in order to attain the goal of sustainable development. In this essence the international agreements help create the framework for efforts to protect the environment and make sustainable use of resources. Within partner countries, German development cooperation support concrete activities to protect the environment and share natural resources more equitably. Within Germany, the delegation was informed that awareness-raising activities are organized to improve public understanding of the relationship between development and environmental protection. The key areas of German development cooperation relating to environmental and resource conservation are mainly related to protecting forests, conserving biodiversity, safeguarding water resources, mitigating climate change and using chemicals safely among others.

The delegation was informed that to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, developing countries need to more than double their energy consumption by not only relying on fossil fuels alone if they hope to halt climate change. In the view of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the primary responsibility for developing a globally sustainable energy system rests with the world's industrialized countries as they have the resources and the innovative capacity to develop markets for renewables and energy-efficiency technologies.

Such efforts could bring down the costs of these products, making sustainable energy affordable for poor countries too.

The delegation further heard that in the course of implementing the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, under the umbrella of the GEF, additional funds were established for adaptation to climate change, such as the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. These resources are used to help poor countries draft action plans for adaptation to climate change as well as implementation of initial measures.

The German Federation, the delegation heard, in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially with regard to developing global partnership for development ensures that the specific skills and experiences of as many players as possible are pooled effectively. In this area the private sector is an especially important player and partner of German development policy as it plays an active role in shaping people's social situation and conditions of employment. This is because the private sector can penetrate into areas the state cannot reach for political, economic or logistic reasons. The private sector, as well as trade associations and trade unions, can bring their know-how, technology, creativity and financial strength to bear and thereby help build up efficient economies in developing countries.

DISCUSSION WITH MR. OTTO FRICKE, MP-CHAIRMAN OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The delegation held discussions with the Chairman of the Budget Committee in the Bundestag, Mr. Otto Fricke, MP, where the delegation was enlightened on the role of the Committee in the budgetary process in the Bundestag. According to parliamentary customs and traditions, the chair of the Budget Committee is always a member of the largest opposition parliamentary group. The delegation heard that the committee was one of the most crucial committees in the Bundestag. The government does not get a single cent to spend without the approval of the German

Bundestag. The Committee scrutinizes the expenditure of the Federal Government and is responsible for deliberating on the federal budget each year

As regards the general legislative process, the delegation heard that the bulk of the work concerning the content of bills is done by the committees and the parliamentary groups. The Budget Committee, whose special legal status with regard to legislation in general is provided for by legislation, plays a leading role in the drafting of the budget. This is not only a reflection of the Budget Committee's important status but also serves to underline the significance of Parliament's scrutiny of the Government.

The delegation further heard that at the beginning of each electoral term the Budget Committee appoints rapporteurs for each departmental budget. The rapporteurs are responsible for their own particular budget area for the whole of an electoral term and not just for the period covered by one particular Budget Act. As a result, they work continuously with their own budget area and become thoroughly familiar with the aims, financial plans and programmes of the corresponding ministry. The rapporteurs thus acquire an in-depth knowledge of their subject which can rarely be achieved by other Members of the German Bundestag. They not only become very competent in their subject but also bear a considerable degree of responsibility, as they are the principal source of information for other members of their parliamentary groups. The advice which they give their colleagues generally forms the basis of the parliamentary group's evaluation of the departmental budget in question. The Members of the German Bundestag who sit on the Budget Committee have access to exclusive information and share responsibility for the budget. Through being members of the same committee and sharing the same heavy workload, they develop a kind of solidarity which extends across party-political boundaries. In the Budget Committee in particular, deliberations are therefore characterized by a spirit of cooperation and consensus.

The delegation was informed that the special status enjoyed by the Budget Committee is further enhanced by the important role played by its Auditing sub-Committee, which is responsible for the parliamentary control of budgetary and financial management and in this context cooperates closely with the Federal Audit

Office. The purpose of this cooperative structure is to ensure that the relevant findings are continuously introduced into the budgetary process. The Federal Audit Office is not only responsible for examining, on the basis of earlier budgets, whether the administration has managed its finances competently and efficiently, but also monitors and assesses the execution and progress of particular projects, quite often at the instigation of the Budget Committee. The budget procedure as a whole can thus be seen as a circular process involving review, ongoing scrutiny and planning by Parliament.

The delegation also heard that through the Budget Committee and the Auditing Committee, the Bundestag is constantly involved in the conduct of the Federation's financial affairs and, of course, also exerts a certain degree of political influence on the decisions involved. This is one of the reasons why budget debates are among the highlights of the parliamentary calendar. They are not only an occasion for arguments about individual budget items; the entire Government programme in terms of the expenditure involved is generally hotly debated by the Government and the opposition.

DISCUSSION WITH MS. CAROLA MULLER-HOLTKENPER, HEAD OF THE EAST AFRICA DIVISION, FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

The delegation held informative and valuable discussions with Ms. Carola Muller-Holtkenper, Head of East Africa Division and other senior officials of the E.A. desk. The delegation was interested to learn about the main activities of the office in sensitizing German citizens to visit East Africa: a region which is commonly perceived as a region full of crises, wars, epidemics, HIV, malaria, etc. On the onset 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.

On democratization she informed the delegation that Kenya as compared with the other countries in the region is considered to have made a lot of progress. However a lot is yet to be achieved in alleviating corruption and the effects of the post election violence and other ills in the society. In discussing corruption she

emphasized the need and importance of strengthening the institutions fighting corruption rather than managing individuals. On peace and security in Kenya notwithstanding the role played by Kenya in maintaining peace in the region the post election violence had eroded Kenya's image internationally and hence the need for Kenya to restore its image for investor confidence to be reclaimed. Nevertheless Germany will continue to support Kenya in its fight to contain the proliferation of small arms.

DISCUSSION WITH DR. MARTINA BUNGE, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND MS. MECHTHILD RAWERT, MP

The delegation held discussions with the Chairwoman of the Committee on Health. The delegation was informed that main preoccupation of the Committee was further development of the reforms to statutory health insurance, patients' rights, doctors' concerns, questions of medical ethics and pharmaceutical safety..

The delegation heard that the health insurance law governs benefits and contributions, the law governing panel doctors and medical associations and their supervision, the economic aspects of medical and dental treatment, the supply of medicinal products and of remedial aids and measures designed to ensure universal health-insurance cover. Whereas the health care deals with medical issues relating to the statutory health-insurance scheme, fundamental issues of medical treatment and health funding, quality-assurance and quality-management issues and the provision of advice and information to insured persons and service providers, the medicinal drugs, pharmacology and medical devices deals with the supply and safety of medicinal products and the law governing medicinal products and pharmacies. The prevention health tackles addiction-related problems and encouraging self-help in the realm of health care.

The delegation was further informed that often there were proposals from the Commission for European Union directives, which would subsequently have to be transposed into German law and would then come back to the Committee in the form of national legislative bill. These relate chiefly to medicinal products but also

include instruments such as the European Parliament and Council Directive on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells.

The delegation also learnt that while exercising its right to take up issues on its own initiative, the Committee on Health also deals regularly with matters arising within its own area of responsibility and obtains information from the Federal Government on developments in the field of health policy and on topical issues such as the current financial position of the statutory health-insurance scheme or progress towards the introduction of the electronic health card.

DISCUSSION WITH PROF. HERTA DAUBLER-GMELIN, MP CHAIR, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AID COMMITTEE

The delegation held discussions with Prof. Herta Daubler-Gmelin, MP, Chair, Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Committee. It was noted that human dignity and human rights are under threat frequently and in many places in Germany the responsibilities of the Bundestag's Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid are consequently very broad. The delegation heard that the main purpose of the committee is to help stop violations of and avert threats to human rights both in Germany and at the international level. Presently, the Committee's concern in particular has been to work with the relevant authorities to ensure that human rights are safeguarded in the struggle against terrorism, guarantee the security of those who defend human rights and work on the improvement and further development of national, European and international instruments for the protection of human rights.

With regard to asylum and the treatment of refugees' policies, the delegation heard that the Committee deals with serious human rights issues routinely and on many occasions discusses ways of ensuring respect for minority rights and the persistent challenges that are associated with humanitarian aid.

In order to have a first hand information of the various humanitarian needs trips to crisis areas are organized to enable Members to make up their own minds about the situation on the ground and examine the appropriateness of the options and instruments available for the provision of aid. The Committee incorporates its proposals and recommendations which they submit to the Federal Government and the German Bundestag for consideration.

DISCUSSION WITH MS. URLIKE HOFKEN, MP, CHAIRWOMAN FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Ms. Ulrike Hofken, MP, Chairwoman, Food, Agriculture, Consumer Protection Committee met the Committee. The delegation was informed that the Federal Republic of Germany as a member state of the European Union is bound by the consumer protection directives of the European Union. A large part of German consumer protection law has been enacted pursuant to European Directives through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which is a system of EU agricultural subsidies and programmes. The aim of the common agricultural policy (CAP) is to provide farmers with a reasonable standard of living, consumers with quality food at fair prices and to preserve rural heritage. CAP is an integrated system of measures which works by maintaining commodity price levels within the EU and by subsidizing production.

She informed the delegation that the CAP combines a direct subsidy payment for crops and land which may be cultivated with price support mechanisms, including guaranteed minimum prices, import tariffs and quotas on certain goods from outside the EU. The level of effort required by agricultural and food businesses when it comes to documentation, monitoring and other administrative requirements has increased significantly in recent years. Administrative effort in the agricultural and food sectors must be reduced to a necessary minimum in keeping with practical needs by means of a comprehensive review of EU legislation.

On rural development the delegation was informed that the German agricultural structure policy has acquired a new regional planning dimension that goes beyond the agricultural sector to take in greater responsibility for regional development. The Government of Germany ensures that as part of a cross-sectoral dialogue, public debate places greater focus on the issues of sustainable development and job creation through innovation and increased value addition in rural regions.

The delegation was further informed that consumers' protection within the European market as well as their health and safety were safeguarded to ensure that their interests were guaranteed hence the EU commitment to ensuring a high level of consumer protection in all Member States.

The delegation heard that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) have not been accepted in Germany and that plans were underway to declare Germany a GMO free county. As a matter of fact more than 70% of the German citizens were against GMO's. This has been attributed to the fact that environmentalists believe that GM products threaten bio safety and will release potentially harmful contaminated organisms into the environment. In Germany, the federal states are responsible for official food surveillance. Each of the 16 states has established at least one laboratory for analyzing foods for their content of GMOs and, thereby, for their compliance with labelling regulations. Each year, thousands of foods are tested.

She stated that genetically modified technology may not eliminate hunger and malnutrition because dysfunctional governments and economies may create problems with production, access and distribution of food. Flawed policies, greed and incompetence will always keep some people in ignorance and poverty. However, GM foods can improve survivability and increase productivity of plants in good conditions.

DISCUSSION WITH MR. DOLF KLOCKE-LECSH - HEAD OF DIVISION, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Delegation Held Discussions with Mr. Dolf Klocke-Lecsh, Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The delegation was informed that the role of the Ministry is to promote and encourage economic development within Germany and in other countries through international cooperation and partnerships. The Ministry cooperates with international organizations involved in development including the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the United Nations. The principles and aims of the Ministry are to reduce poverty worldwide, protect the natural environment, build peace and realize democracy and promote equitable forms of globalization.

He lamented that excessive debts for a long time have been holding back development in the world's poorest countries and given that some countries have such a crippling debt burden in that even with above-average economic growth they are barely able to meet interest or redemption payments. As a result, these countries lack the finance they need for urgent investments in infrastructure and other sectors of the economy. The Federal Republic of Germany is therefore working to help heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) to scale down their debt burden to an economically sustainable level.

He continued to inform the delegation that greatest efforts were required in Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and that is why Germany's engagement in Africa continues being strong. This has been supported by German development policy on poverty reduction, global structural and peace policy which is geared towards preventive strategy against violence, war and terrorism. The aim of German development policy is to use its resources for the purpose of averting violent conflicts and wars. On globalization, the German development policy is to help shape globalization so that social, ecological and human needs are taken into account, ensuring that no region or population group is excluded or marginalized. To

this end Germany therefore advocates strengthening the influence of the developing countries within international organizations such as the WB or the IMF.

DISCUSSION WITH GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRIKA VEREIN GERMAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AND THE GERMAN FOUNDATION

The delegation held a meeting with officers of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce as well as representatives of Afrika-Verein German Business Association. The delegation was informed that any businesses in Germany must by law register with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. The companies have a general Assembly, a President and several committees.

The delegation was informed that the German Business Association has over 600 members among whom are German multinationals as well as many medium and small sized enterprises with trade links or investments in African countries. The delegation heard that Afrika-Verein enjoys a network of well established links to the governments, chamber of commerce, trade associations and other relevant economic institutions.

DISCUSSION WITH MR. HERALD WEISS, HEAD OF SUB SAHARAN AFRICA OF THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD)

The delegation held discussions with Mr. Herald Weiss, Head of Sub Saharan Africa of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He informed the delegation that DAAS was created 8 years ago as a German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. DAAD offers programs and funding for students, faculty, researchers and others in higher education, providing financial support to over 55,000 individuals per year. It also represents the German higher education system abroad, promotes Germany as an academic and research destination, and helps build ties between institutions around the world.

Mr. Herald Weiss highlighted some of the DAAD's main objectives which include, encouraging outstanding young students and academics from abroad to come to Germany for study or research visits, qualifying young German researchers and professionals at the very best institutions around the world in a spirit of tolerance and openness and maintaining or establishing German studies including German language, literature and cultural studies at an appropriate level at major foreign universities, and other institutions of higher learning.

The delegation was also informed that DAAD promotes the creation of high-quality and permanently self-sufficient higher education structures in developing and transitional countries. The programmes for those countries which are offered by the DAAD are mainly focused on human and institutional capacity building.

DAAD is a joint organization of Germany's higher education institutions and is responsible for promoting international academic relations, primarily through the exchange of students, academics and researchers. The mandate of the predominantly publicly-funded DAAD is to raise the international profile of Germany's higher education institutions and to serve as a "mediating organization" in the government's foreign, European, development and higher education policies.

DISCUSSION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN EAST AFRICA PARLIAMENATARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP MR. PATRICK MEINHARDT, MP, AND OTHER MEMBERS

The delegation held fruitful discussions with the Chairman of the German East Africa Friendship Group Mr. Patrick Meinhardt, MP. He started by informing the delegation of the formation of the group which dates back 75 years ago. The delegation was informed that German Bundestag's political relations with national parliaments of foreign states are cultivated by at least 53 bilateral and multilateral parliamentary groups. The purpose of these groups is to promote ongoing dialogue with parliamentary institutions of one or more partner states. Primarily this involves exchange of information with members of other parliaments.

The delegation also learnt that in parallel to these discussions with their peers, the groups also organize meetings with government and civil society representatives. All these encounters offer numerous opportunities for the participants to discuss differing worldviews and learn from each other. Furthermore, the promotion of democratic parliamentary structures, the strengthening of human rights, contributions to the management of crises and the parliamentary scrutiny of the Federal Government's foreign policy are all prominent in the group's work.

The formation of these parliamentary friendship groups is based on a cross party basis and do not have statutes and rules on their own. Only members of the German Bundestag may join the parliamentary friendship groups and no member is allowed to join more than five groups. Joining a group reflects on the member's special interest in relations with partner state. The decision to get involved in a particular parliamentary friendship group may be prompted by existing personal links, a strong concern with a particular aspect of foreign policy, the proximity of a member's constituency to the German border or economic or cultural ties between their constituency and the partner state.

Multilateral parliamentary friendship groups have been established to handle relations with the states of certain regions, while new groups have repeatedly been found in response to political developments.

While stressing the need for Kenya to reclaim its damaged image after the post election violence the Association assured the delegation that they will endeavour to encourage German tourists to visit Kenya as it has returned to normalcy.

MEETING WITH THE KENYAN AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The delegation was hosted to a dinner by the Ambassador of Kenya to the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Harry Mutuma Kathurima. The Ambassador informed the delegation that the Mission is also accredited to Romania and Bulgaria. Although the Mission can effectively cover issues within Berlin, financial constraints would not

enable the Mission to cover other areas in Germany and other two countries of accreditation. The delegation was informed that there was a large population of Kenyan students in Germany, most of whom are in major towns of the country, and that some joined the universities and leave without visiting the Mission except when they encounter difficulties.

He informed the delegation that the mission does not know the number of Kenyan students in Germany which led to wastage in the allocation of bursaries. Some of the students continue to receive the bursaries long after they left the universities and colleges while others 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. The Ministry of Education should endeavour to furnish the Embassy with details about the students in Germany, particularly those awarded bursaries so that the Embassy may advise the Ministry on any change of status of the students awarded the scholarships.

Since the reintroduction of visa charges on visitors to Kenya, the Mission has been able to improve on the provision of the 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.

On bilateral trade relations the delegation was further informed that Kenya ranks among the leading recipients of German Development Assistance. Its wide cooperation makes the country one of the main donors to Kenya after World Bank, the EU, Japan, the United Kingdom and the USA. Kenya ranks amongst the leading recipients of the German Development Assistance in Sub Saharan Africa. Bilateral trade between the two countries has been averaging Kshs.17 billion annually over the last five years.

The Federal Republic of Germany also offers Kenya technical assistance through GTZ in the areas of water sector reforms, support to public financial management,

peace support training, good governance, and capacity development for public procurement. Currently, Germany is funding programmes/projects at a total budget of Kshs 12.2 billion. During the current fiscal year 2008/09, funds amounting to Kshs 5.4 billion are being used to finance various projects and programmes.

Kenya's main exports to Germany are coffee and horticultural products (including vegetables); while its imports are mostly telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles and other machinery. There is thus need to encourage Germany to import more products from Kenya through business visits and delegations.

On tourism, the delegation was informed that Germany is among the leading countries having Kenya as a tourist destination. The number of German tourists holidaying in Kenya increased from 196,300 in 2006 to 210,700 in 2007. 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 sector has also suffered following the post election violence which may take long to recover. Thus the need to encourage more Germans to visit Kenya as Kenya's Medium Term Plan targets to increase the number of tourists from 1.6 million currently to 3 million by 2012.

He further stated that due to a spirited campaign by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, the Kenya Tourist Board, the Kenya Embassy in Berlin and other stakeholders, there has been an increase in the number of German tourists to Kenya. Unfortunately, the events that occurred in the wake of the General Elections of 2007 led to mass cancellations of tourism bookings and hence a reduction in the number of tourists. In addition the travel advisories issued by the German Government made many tourists fearful of visiting Kenya Judging from the number of visa applications at the Embassy; the number had reduced by about 75%.

THE DELEGATION'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegation observed that the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) may be used to eliminate hunger and malnutrition at the same time the foods can improve survivability and increase productivity considering the perennial droughts and famine ravaging most parts of the country.

The delegation further observed that there were many major controversies surrounding the genetically engineered foods which commonly focus on the long-term health effects for anyone eating them, environmental safety, labelling and consumer choice, intellectual property rights, ethics, food security, poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and potential disruption or even possible destruction of the food chain.

At the same time, while borrowing a leaf from the Germans on their stand on GMOs the delegation recommends to the House to critically consider relevant laws related to the introduction of GMOs in the country to cater for the issues raised above.

The delegation appreciated the role of DAAD in promoting education activities in Kenya through scholarships in Germany. The delegation recommends that the DAAD enhances the scholarships to more Kenyans, who should be sensitized by the Ministry of Education on the DAAD programmes.

The delegation praised the importance of the German Parliamentary Friendship Group promoting ongoing dialogue with parliamentary institutions of one or more partner states and the role it plays in the German Bundestag. The delegation therefore proposes to the Parliament of Kenya to borrow a leaf from their counterparts in Germany and establish such an initiative in the Kenya Parliament.

The delegation shares the sentiments of the officials of the Kenya Mission in Berlin that the Ministry of Education streamlines disbursement of bursaries to students pursuing education outside the country. Although the mission has assigned an officer to deal with education matters, the Ministry of Education should endeavour to regularly and frequently update the Embassy on the details about the students in Germany, particularly those awarded bursaries so that the Embassy may advise the

Ministry on any change of status of the students awarded the scholarships. This would reduce incidences where bursaries are awarded to students who are no longer pursuing courses at universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Having observed that the tourism industry had suffered due to adverse publicity in Kenya and abroad, there is need for the stakeholders both in Kenya and Germany to ensure that concerted efforts in marketing Kenya were put in place to enable the country reclaim its lost glory by specifically, among others, improving on its security and infrastructure in the tourist areas as well as the whole country.