


*Approved.*  
*SNA*  
*13/8/25*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION - 2025  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN  
RELATIONS**

**REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE  
(MCS) EXERCISE IN HONG KONG, FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2024**

 <b>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID</b>	
<b>DATE:</b> 14 AUG 2025	<b>DAY:</b> THUR
<b>TABLED BY:</b>	HON. NELSON KODECH, CBS, MP CHAIRPERSON
<b>CLERK AT THE TABLE:</b>	MS. MERCI CHUMBO

**CLERK'S CHAMBERS  
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
NAIROBI**

**AUGUST, 2025**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
RECEIVED**  
**13 AUG 2025**  
**SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
P. O. Box 41832, NAIROBI.**



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## **CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD**

This is the report of the Delegation of Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations who participated in the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) Forum in Hong Kong, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The Delegation's participation in the Exercise was by invitation from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, State Department for Diaspora Affairs. The objective of the MCS Exercise was to meet with the Kenyans living in China and specifically those in Hong Kong to assess the success, efficacy and viability of the mobile consular services.

The consular services availed for the Kenyan Diaspora Community in Hong Kong and Asia in general were: Passport application and renewals; National ID registration; Document Attestation; Birth Certificate Registration; and Regaining of Kenyan Citizenship.

Following the involvement of the Delegation during the exercise, it was observed that many Kenyans in China endured difficulties due to communication barriers. This was evident especially for students, employees and the business fraternity.

Kenyan teachers who had sought teaching opportunities in China were unable to gain employment as the profession was a preserve of the local professionals. There was need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Kenya and China to allow Kenyan teachers to access teaching opportunities in China.

Further, the location of the Chancery for the Honorary Consulate in Hong was not appropriate as the floor also housed other private offices. There is need for the Government of Kenya to set up a fully-fledged Consulate in Hong Kong and deploy Diaspora/Consular officers to serve Kenyans living there.

In order to address the high un-employment rate in Kenya, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in liaison with the Ministry of Labour should partner with potential employers in China so as to secure employment of not only the Kenyan Diaspora but also of Kenyans back home.

For purposes of reaching many Kenyans living in the far flung regions of China, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs should hold webinars with the Kenyan Diaspora in China for the purposes of creating awareness of savings and investment opportunities back home. Similarly, Kenyans in the Chinese Diaspora would also be in a position to report any challenges they could be facing.

It was further noted that the Government of Kenya does not have a clear program to reintegrate Kenyans studying abroad as well as for the ones whose contracts had ended. A reintegration program would go a long way in ensuring that these Kenyans can transfer their knowledge, skills and expertise.

Pursuant to Standing Order 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 its participation in the MCS Exercise in Hong Kong, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

**Hon. Nelson Koech, CBS, MP**

**Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations**

## **1.0 PREFACE**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1. This is the report of a delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its participation in the Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Activity in Hong Kong from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.
2. The participation in the MCS Activity provided not only an opportunity for the Committee to carry out its oversight mandate on the utilization of the resources allocated to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs but also a chance to understand the challenges faced during the activity. The participation informed the delegation to make recommendations that would lead to future improvements.

### **1.2 Mandate of the Committee**

3. 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, assess and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
  - e) 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;
4. The Second Schedule to the National Assembly Standing Orders assigns the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations the mandate to consider matters related to *Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries including territorial waters, international relations, and veteran affairs*.

### **1.3 Oversight**

5. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversight 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).

## 1.4 Committee Membership

4. The Committee was constituted by the House on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 and comprises the following Members and further reconstituted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 comprising the following Members:

### Chairperson

**Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.**

Belgut Constituency

**UDA Party**

### Vice-Chairperson

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

Mandera North Constituency

**UDM Party**

### **Members**

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.

Gilgil Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Joshua Kandie, M.P.

Baringo Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, CBS, M.P.

Kamkunji Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.

Kinangop Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, CBS M.P.

Suba North Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.

Sabatia Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.

Kajiado Central Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

Shinyalu Constituency

**ANC Party**

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P.

Kitui County

**WDM-K**

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, M.P.

Lagdera Constituency

**ODM Party**

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.

Imenti Central Constituency

**UDA Party**

Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P.

Nominated Member

**UDA Party**

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.

Saboti Constituency

**ODM Party**

## 1.5 Committee Secretariat

7. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi  
**First Clerk Assistant/Head of Secretariat**

Ms. Clarah Kimeli  
**Principal Legal Counsel II**

Mr. Bernard Njeru  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Mr. Salat Ali  
**Principle Serjeant-at-Arms II**

Mr. Machuki E. Mwebi  
**Fiscal Analyst III**

Ms. Noelle Chelagat  
**Media Relations Officer II**

Mr. Lenny Muchangi  
**Legal Counsel II**

Mr. John Nganga  
**Audio Recording Officer II**

Mr. Martin Sigei  
**Research Officer III**

Ms. Faith Malala  
**Public Communications Officer**

Mr. Alex Amwata  
**Hansard Reporter**

## 1.6 Committee Delegation

8. The delegation comprised of:

- 1) **Hon. Joshua Kandie, MP** – **Leader of Delegation**
- 2) Hon. Moses N. Kirima, MP
- 3) Mr. Daniel Mutunga – Deputy Director & Delegation Secretary

## 2.0 MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICES - HONG KONG

### 2.1 Background Information

9. Access to Government Services is a Constitutional right to every Kenyan citizen. Due to the distance of diverse locations, the Kenyan Diaspora at times finds it a challenge for them to have access to critical government services like documentation (National Identity Cards and Passports). National Identity Cards are majorly needed by second-generation immigrants who are eighteen (18) years old and above while Passports are majorly required by first-generation immigrants, as well as undocumented Kenyans, who need to replace their prior passports.
10. In the past, the Government has provided these services through the missions with varying levels of success. Despite the past attempts the demand for government services by the Kenyan Diaspora has not been adequately met due to challenge of access to the central registry and technological lags in the e-Citizen platform occasioned by time differences. It is on this basis that the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) initiated a program to provide Mobile Consular Services (MCS) to the Kenyan Diaspora, as per a Presidential Directive issued by the President H.E. (Dr.) William Samoei Ruto in December 2022. This directive mandates the relevant Ministries responsible for managing the Kenyan Diaspora to address their needs, acknowledging their significance to the Kenyan economy.
11. The SDDA has in place Mobile Consular Units (MCUs) that work closely with the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services in taking the needed services to the Kenyan Diaspora.
12. The services offered to the Diaspora during the Mobile consular services (MCS) include: Identity Cards (ID) application and replacement; Passport application, renewal and replacement; Birth certificate application and replacement; Certificate of Good Conduct application; Marriage Certificate application; Document Attestation; Declaration of Dual Citizenship; Police Clearance Certificate; and Emergency Travel Certificate.
13. Since the inception of the MCS Activity, the SDDA has had three Phases for the activity:
- (i) **Phase 1 (January - July 2023)**-Covered eight (8) Countries (New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Qatar, Brazil, Oman, Canada and United States of America). In this phase a total of 5,549 Kenyans were attended to as summarized in table 1.

Table 1: Summary of number of services offered during MCS Phase 1 (January-July 2023)

Service	Passport Renewal	New ID Application	Application For Citizenship	Application for Birth Certificate	Document Attestation	Declaration of Dual Citizenship	Police Clearance	Emergency Travel Certificate	Total
No. of Services	3,699	1,631	62	130	2	20	4	1	5,549

Source: State Department for Diaspora Affairs-MCS Phase I

- (ii) **Phase II (July-December 2023)**-Covered fifteen (15) countries namely Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Belgium, Japan, United States and South Korea. At the time of writing this report, the SDDA had not published the numbers. That notwithstanding, the Committee had an opportunity to conduct an oversight visit for the MCS Activities for the Tokyo and Osaka cities in Japan. In addition, information of the MCS offered in South Korea was shared and a summary of the number of services offered in Japan and South Korea is summarized in table 2.

Table 2: Summary of the number of services offered during MCS Phase II (Japan & South Korea)

Details	Identification Documents (IDs)	Passport Application/Renewal	Certificate of Good Conduct	Birth Certificate	Total
Japan	19	2	0	0	21
Tokyo	13	0	0	0	13
Osaka	6	2	0	0	8
South Korea	19	8	11	1	39
Seoul	17	8	6	0	31
Busan	2	0	5	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>

*Source: State Department for Diaspora Affairs-MCS Phase II*

Table 3: Summary of number of services offered during MCS Phase III (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou & Hong Kong)

NO	SERVICE	BEIJING	SHANGHAI	GUANGZOU	HONG KONG	TOTAL
1	ID Application & Updating	13	20	23	11	67
2	Passport Application & Renewal	10	3	18	9	40
3	Birth Certificate	0	4	2	1	7
4	Certificate of Good Conduct	2	12	5	0	19
5	Legal Aid	0	7	1	1	9
6	Psycho-socio Services	1	5	5	5	16
7	Application for Dual Citizenship	0	1	0	0	1
8	Certificate of no Impediment	0	0	1	0	1
SUB-TOTAL		26	52	55	27	
<b>TOTAL NO. OF SERVICES</b>		<b>160</b>				

*Source: State Department for Diaspora Affairs-MCS Phase IV*

## **2.2 MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG**

### **2.2.1 Hong Kong (22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)**

14. The Mobile Consular Services Activity took place at the Kenya Honorary Chancery, Room 1201A 12/F, Tower 1, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.
15. From table 3, a total of twenty-seven (27) services were offered in Hong Kong which included ID application & updating (11), Passport application & renewal (9) birth certificate application (1), legal aid (1) and psycho-social services (5). This Activity took place at the Kenya Honorary Consulate in Hong Kong.

### **2.2.2 Challenges during MCS Activity in Hong Kong**

16. The challenges encountered during the MCS Activity in Hong Kong included:
- 1) e-Citizen related challenges:
    - (i) A number of Kenyans experienced challenges with accessing their portals on e-Citizen due to system failure.
    - (ii) The system is not Diaspora-friendly in that it requires local Kenyan addresses i.e., estate and village.
    - (iii) Uploading of documents to the e-Citizen platform was lengthy, erratic and unreliable.
    - (iv) The system is not credit/debit cards friendly: this forced the Diaspora applicants to wait for people back home to start their day and request them to pay via M-Pesa because the system declined most credit/debit cards.
    - (v) Non response from the official email support@e-Citizen.go.ke: it was rarely answered. Moreover, due to the time difference between Kenya and Hong Kong, the officers providing the services were forced to wait for their Kenyan counterparts to get to the office, for the issue at hand to be handled.
    - (vi) Due to a lot of services being loaded onto the system, it would be non-responsive for some minutes which really delayed the process of application and upload of the required documentation.
    - (vii) Some Kenyans who turned up for the services had neither filled the requisite forms nor made copies of their documents hence leading to delays in the provision of services.
    - (viii) Other Kenyans who had neither linked their Visa cards to online payment systems nor used M-Pesa had a challenge with paying for services on e-Citizen.
  - 2) Budgetary constraints: Inadequate budgetary allocations to the State Department of Diaspora Affairs contributed to inefficiencies and poor service delivery to Kenyan Citizens living in the Diaspora.
  - 3) Use of outdated technique in fingerprint capture: The National Registration Bureau still uses the manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID applications which is an outdated way of capturing fingerprints.
  - 4) A number of Kenyans experienced challenges with accessing their portals on e-Citizen due to system failure.

#### **4.0 OBSERVATIONS**


17. Having participated in the MCS Exercise in Hong Kong, the delegation made the following observations:
- 1) The National Registration Bureau (NRB) was still using manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID applications which is an outdated way of capturing fingerprints.
  - 2) The Mobile Consular Services program was highly commended by the Kenyans in China with majority lauding the efforts of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in ensuring that the Diaspora received the vital Government services.
  - 3) The turn-out for the exercise was low. The Kenyans who participated in the exercise decried the vastness of the region and the high travel costs that hindered many from travelling for the exercise. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs also attributed this to a number of facilitation challenges.
  - 4) Kenyans who turned up accessed the much-needed consular services with IDs and passports being the most sought after.
  - 5) Through the MCS, most Kenyan Diaspora living in Hong Kong got to meet and interact with the Embassy staff for the first time.
  - 6) Some Kenyans living in Hong Kong were seeking asylum.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

18. The delegation made the following recommendations:

- 1) The State Department for Diaspora Affairs should ensure budgeting and funding for MCS activities is always finalized before the execution of an activity to avoid facilitation challenges. It is crucial to ensure that the officers involved are supported in conducting the exercise, including receiving their allowances before the activity.
- 2) The National Treasury should:
  - a) Resolve the payment limitations on the e-Citizen platform regarding ability to use debit and credit cards.
  - b) Ensure a prompt and responsive 24-hour customer service support for the e-Citizen platform.
  - c) Revamp/upgrade the e-Citizen platform in order to enable it to handle the load of services it is meant to handle.
  - d) Make e-Citizen more user-friendly for people living abroad; for instance, when choosing a nation of residency, the drop-down menu should only show locations inside that country.
- 3) Live fingerprint capture for Identity Card applications needs to be accelerated by the National Registration Bureau. This will greatly speed up data capture and enhance accuracy thereby reducing rejections.
- 4) There is need for Diaspora Associations to be formed in China. The State Department should consider holding a Diaspora Engagement Forum in a central place in China which will bring them together and one of the key issues to stress should be the formation of the Associations. Considering how big China is, those Associations could be formed at the Provinces levels.
- 5) Kenyan Embassy in Beijing should have a streamlined and updated database of Kenyans in China. This would not only help in the mapping of the Diaspora but also enhance communication between the Kenya Government and Kenyan Diaspora in the host country.
- 6) The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services should consider updating the software of the passport registration kits especially those being used by the Immigration Attaches' in the Kenyan Missions abroad.
- 7) The National Registration Bureau should consider getting digital mobile ID registration kits. This would enhance efficiency and reduce the challenges that come with the effects of weather on the ink (for instance freezing) used in the manual capturing of biometrics.
- 8) The National Registration Bureau should enhance awareness about the new digital IDs that are currently being rolled out since most Kenyan Diaspora barely have information about them.

- 9) The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services should consider having multiple modes of payment on the e-Citizen.
- 10) There is need for the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to be included in the next MCS phase since many Kenyans in China had asked for their services especially on the authentication of their Kenyan Driving licenses for them to be able to apply for those of the host country.
- 11) Kenyans in the Diaspora should be encouraged to effectively file and backup their documents for easy retrieval should need arise.
- 12) The Kenyan Diaspora should be sensitized on the importance of cyber security especially in the e-Citizen. Account ownership and logins credentials should be emphasized during the sensitization.
- 13) Including an e-Citizen officer in the next MCS phase would be very helpful especially when a challenge related to the portal arises.

SIGNED: .....  ..... DATE: .....

**HON. NELSON KOECH, CBS, MP**  
**CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE**  
**AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION- 2025

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND  
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

REPORT ON:

**PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE (MCS)  
EXERCISE IN HONG KONG, FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2024**

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, **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2025**

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P. (Chairperson)	
2.	The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P.	
4.	The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.	
5.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, 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.	





**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION (2025)**  
**DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES**  
**DC- DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**MINUTES OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup>  
JULY 2025 AT NOON IN BUNGE TOWER, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, COMMITTEE ROOM 15,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.**

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**PRESENT**

1. **The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.** - **Vice-Chairperson**
2. The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P.
3. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, CBS, M.P
4. The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, M.P
5. The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P
6. The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P
7. The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P.
8. The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P.
9. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P
10. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P
11. The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P.

**APOLOGIES**

1. **The Hon. Koech Nelson, CBS, M.P.** - **Chairperson**
2. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P.
3. The Hon. Muratha Anne Wanjiku, M.P.
4. The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

1. Mr. Dennis Ogechi - Clerk Assistant I
2. Mr. Bernard Nthiga - Clerk Assistant III
3. Mr. Abdi Salat - Principal Serjeant At-Arms II
4. Ms. Noelle Chelagat - Media Relations Officer II
5. Mr. Alex Amwata - Hansard Reporter II
6. Mr. Martin Sigei - Research Officer III
7. Mr. Shadrack Kimutai - Research Intern
8. Ms. Ryan Kipsang - Clerk Assistant Intern

## **AGENDA**

1. Preliminaries – Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda
2. Communication from the Chair
3. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting
4. **Consideration and Adoption of a Report on Participation in the Diaspora Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Exercise in Hong Kong, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.**
5. Any Other Business
6. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/201/2025:**

### **PRELIMINARIES**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m., and a prayer was said. The agenda above was unanimously adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/202/2025**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairperson informed the Committee of the following:

1. The Committee was in receipt of a written response to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs on a statement requested by Hon. Machua Waithaka, MP for Kiambu on the disappearance of Mr. Reuben Barua, a Kenyan, in the United States of America.
2. The Committee was in receipt of a correspondence from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs inviting Hon. Nelson Koech, CBS, MP, Chairperson, Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to a luncheon at State House, Nairobi, on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 from 1300hrs.

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/203/2025:**

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SITTINGS.**

The Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Sitting were confirmed as a true record of the Committee proceedings, having been proposed by Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.

The Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Sitting were confirmed as a true record of the Committee proceedings, having been proposed by Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, M.P.

### **MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/204/2025:**

### **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE (MCS) EXERCISE IN HONG KONG, FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2024.**

The Report on Participation in the Diaspora Mobile Consular Service (Mcs) Exercise in Hong Kong, was adopted having been proposed by Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P., and seconded by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P.

It was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee observed that:

1. The National Registration Bureau (NRB) was still using manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID applications which is an outdated way of capturing fingerprints.
2. The Mobile Consular Services program was highly commended by the Kenyans in China with majority lauding the efforts of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in ensuring that the Diaspora received the vital Government services.
3. The turn-out for the exercise was low. The Kenyans who participated in the exercise decried the vastness of the region and the high travel costs that hindered many from travelling for the exercise. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs also attributed this to a number of facilitation challenges.
4. Kenyans who turned up accessed the much-needed consular services with IDs and passports being the most sought after.
5. Through the MCS, most Kenyan Diaspora living in Hong Kong got to meet and interact with the Embassy staff for the first time.
6. Some Kenyans living in Hong Kong were seeking asylum.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommended that:

1. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs should ensure that budgeting and funding for MCS activities is always finalized before the execution of an activity to avoid facilitation challenges. It is crucial to ensure that the officers involved are supported in conducting the exercise, including receiving their allowances before the activity.
2. The National Treasury should:
  - a) Resolve the payment limitations on the e-Citizen platform regarding the ability to use debit and credit cards.
  - b) Ensure a prompt and responsive 24-hour customer service support for the e-Citizen platform.
  - c) Revamp/upgrade the e-Citizen platform in order to enable it to handle the load of services it is meant to handle.
  - d) Make e-Citizen more user-friendly for people living abroad; for instance, when choosing a nation of residency, the drop-down menu should only show locations inside that country.
3. Live fingerprint capture for Identity Card applications needs to be accelerated by the National Registration Bureau. This will greatly speed up data capture and enhance accuracy thereby reducing rejections.
4. There is need for Diaspora Associations to be formed in China. The State Department should consider holding a Diaspora Engagement Forum in a central place in China which will bring them together and one of the key issues to stress should be the formation of the Associations. Considering how big China is, those Associations could be formed at the Provinces levels.

5. Kenyan Embassy in Beijing should have a streamlined and updated database of Kenyans in China. This would not only help in the mapping of the Diaspora but also enhance communication between the Kenyan Government and Kenyan Diaspora in the host country.
6. The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services should consider updating the software of the passport registration kits especially those being used by the Immigration Attaches' in the Kenyan Missions abroad.
7. The National Registration Bureau should consider getting digital mobile ID registration kits. This would enhance efficiency and reduce the challenges that come with the effects of weather on the ink (for instance, freezing) used in the manual capturing of biometrics.
8. The National Registration Bureau should enhance awareness about the new digital IDs that are currently being rolled out since most Kenyan Diaspora barely have information about them.
9. The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services should consider having multiple modes of payment on the e-Citizen.
10. There is need for the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to be included in the next MCS phase since many Kenyans in China had asked for their services, especially on the authentication of their Kenyan Driving licenses for them to be able to apply for those of the host country.
11. Kenyans in the Diaspora should be encouraged to effectively file and backup their documents for easy retrieval should need arise.
12. The Kenyan Diaspora should be sensitized on the importance of cybersecurity especially in the e-Citizen. Account ownership and logins credentials should be emphasized during the sensitization.
13. Including an e-Citizen officer in the next MCS phase would be very helpful especially when a challenge related to the portal arises.

**MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/205/2025:**

**ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. The next meeting will be held on notice.

**SIGNED:** .....  ..... **DATE:** .....

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