

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPER NO. 147

DATE: 16 AUG 2023



TABLED
BY:

Hon. Daniel Wanyama
(Chairperson, Sports and Culture)

CLERK-AT
THE TABLE:

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SNA
16/8/23

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION (2023)

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS AND
CULTURE

REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKING VISIT AND THE 21ST
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND
AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE HELD FROM THE 12TH TO
THE 16TH OF APRIL 2023 IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA

The Directorate of Departmental Committee
Clerk's Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI.

AUGUST 2023

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMB	-	Ambassador
COVID	-	Coronavirus Disease
EM	-	Emeritus
MBS	-	Moran of the order of the Burning Spear
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
US	-	United States

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

The 21st Edition of the International Conference on African and Afro-American Culture was hosted by The African Cultural Centre "Fernando Ortiz" in Santiago De Cuba. The Institution was created on 25th July 1988 with the objective of studying, disseminating and researching African culture and its influence in Latin American countries and the Caribbean, valuing the evolution and presence of its components in the cultures of the area.

The African Culture Centre line of work includes;

- a) Research –the scope of the research includes historical, ethnological, anthropology, linguistic, literary and socio-cultural research.
- b) Expositions – an exhibition of work and arts representing more than 27 African countries donated to the Institution
- c) Artistic Literature – showcasing artistic manifestation derived from the African Legacy through dance, music, arts, theatre, orality and literature.
- d) Methodological Teaching – comprehensive training needs of graduates within the university curriculum ensuring there are trained researchers on African issues.
- e) Editorial –publication of informative and scientific content on issues with African roots present in the Cuban culture.

The Conference is held annually and the 21st Edition of the International Conference on African and Afro-American Culture was held in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba on 12th to 16th April 2023. The theme of the conference was ***"Presence of the African substrate in Cuban culture; music, dance and plastic art"***.

The Conference mainly focused on the following topics; Gender, race and identity; History and ethnology; Literature and linguistics; Religion; colour and shape, images, the ancestral rhythm and theatre; and Symposiums on medicine and culture

The aim of the Conference was to bring together specialists, scholars, researchers, artists, doctors, filmmakers, musicians and those interested in African and Afro-American issues, opening a space for reflection and discussions on problems affecting the African Culture and from a multi-disciplinary perspective analyzing its presence and influence in the Caribbean culture. The delegation used the opportunity to benchmark on the African and Afro-American Cultures.

The Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture received an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the 21st Edition of the Conference and benchmark on best cultural practices. The Committee selected the following delegation to attend the conference;

1. Hon. Caroli Omondi Ochola, MP – Leader of the Delegation
2. Hon. Robert Basil Ngui, MP
3. Hon. Chege Njuguna James, MP
4. Mr. Wilson Mwangi, Fiscal Analyst – Delegation Secretary

The Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture is thankful to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical and financial support accorded to the delegation. The delegation also thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for inviting the Committee to the conference and benchmarking visit.

The Delegation would also like to thank Mr. Tabu Osusa, the legendary music producer and author of *Shades of Benga: The Story of Popular Music in Kenya from 1946-2016* for his work with Alliance Francaise to facilitate the visit to Kenya later in the year by Cuba's premier music group, The Buena Vista Social Club.

On behalf of the Sports and Culture delegation to the 21st Edition of the International Conference on African and Afro-American Culture and pursuant to provisions of the Standing Order 199 (6), it is my privilege to table the Report of the Committee's Delegation.

Hon. Daniel Wanyama Sitati, M.P

Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture

PART I

1 PREFACE

1.0 Establishment of the Committee

1. The Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture undertakes its role of representation, legislation and oversight in accordance to **Article 124** of the constitution. The Second Schedule to the National Assembly Standing Orders assign the Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture the mandate to consider matters in relation to *Sports; Culture; Language; Creative Economy including promotion of music; Arts; Film promotion and Development; National Heritage and Betting & Lotteries.*

1.1 Mandate of the Committee

2. The Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture is one of the twenty (20) Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under *Standing Order 216* whose mandates pursuant to the *Standing Order 216 (5)* are as follows:
 - i. *To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;*
 - ii. *To study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of their implementation;*
 - iii. *On a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;*
 - iv. *To study and review all the legislation referred to it;*
 - v. *To study, access and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;*
 - vi. *To 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;*
 - vii. *To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order No. 204 (Committee on appointments);*
 - viii. *To examine treaties, agreements and conventions;*
 - ix. *To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;*
 - x. *To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and*
 - xi. *To examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.*

1.2 Committee Membership

3. The Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture was constituted by the House on 27th October 2022 and comprises of the following members:

Chairperson

Hon. Daniel Wanyama Sitati, MP
Webuye West Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. James Githua Wamacukuru, MP
Kabete Constituency

UDA Party

Members

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
Marsabit County
UDA Party

Hon. Samwel Moroto Chumel, MP
Kapenguria Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Stephen Mutinda Mule, MP
Matungulu Constituency
WDM-K Party

Hon. Mary Emaase Otucho, MP
Teso South Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Catherine Nakhabi Omanyoo MP
Busia County
ODM Party

Hon. Paul Ekwom Nabuin, MP
Turkana North Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. BSP. (EM) Dr. Jackson Kipkemai Kosgei, MP
Nominated
UDA Party

Hon. Samuel Gonzi Rai, MP
Kapenguria Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Charles Ngusya Nguna, MP
Mwingi Constituency
WDM –K Party

Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, MP
Turbo Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Richard Kipkemai Yegon, MP
Bomet East Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Caroli Omondi
Suba South Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Robert Ngui Basil, MP
Yatta Constituency
WDM-K Party

1.3 Committee Secretariat

4. The Committee is facilitated by the following secretariat:

Mr. John Mugoma
Clerk Assistant I/Head of Secretariat

Ms Mary Kinyunye
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Vitus Owino
Research Officer II

Ms. Christine Odhiambo
Senior Legal Counsel

Mr. Wilson Mwangi
Fiscal Analyst III

Mr. Eugene Luteshi
Audio Officer III

Mr. Luka Mutua
Serjeant-At-Arms I

Mr. Calvin Njoroge
Media Relations Officer III

Ms. Nancy Chepkemai
Legal Counsel II

PART II

2 BACKGROUND OF CUBA

5. The Republic of Cuba is an island country comprising the Island of Cuba and several archipelagos of over 4,000 islands with a population of over 11 million making it the second most populous country in the Caribbean. Havana is the capital city and the country is subdivided into 15 provinces where the major cities are Santiago De Cuba and Camagüey. The majority of Cubans speak Spanish, which is the country's official language.
6. Cuba has a state-controlled planned economy where most of the means of production are owned and run by the Government. Labour and employment in the country is majorly done by the state. Major industries are in the tourism sectors and exports of skilled labour, sugar, tobacco, coffee and cigars.
7. The nation is multicultural and multiethnic, with traditions influenced by a variety of sources, including the Taino and Ciboney peoples, the extensive Spanish colonial period, the entrance of slaves from Africa, and a close Cold War relationship with the Soviet Union. Cuban culture is expressed through a rich Cuban music. Rhumba music originated in the early Afro-Cuban culture, mixed with Spanish elements of style.
8. Thanks to Cuban free education at all levels including university, Cuba has one of the highest literacy rates in the World. In addition, all health care and hospitals are free due to its universal health care system which provides free medical treatment to all Cuban citizens. The world's highest doctor-to-population ratio is in Cuba, which also sent tens of thousands of medical professionals to more than 40 different nations globally.
9. Cuba has a very limited access to internet, where WiFi is available at accessible hotspots such public parks and designated hotels and after purchasing a temporary or permanent account on Nauta. However, once you possess a local Cuban line, internet is accessible through data.
10. Transit to Cuba from Kenya is an eight (8) hour flight through Paris then an eleven (11) hour flight to Panama City and finally a two (2) hour flight to Havana or with a US Visa the flight time from Miami to Cuba will be one hour.

PART III

3 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND BENCHMARKING VISITS

11. The conference was organized into various sessions with different thematic areas under discussion. The sessions were plenary sessions; special sessions; bridging sessions; symposia sessions and workshop sessions. The Delegations attended the various sessions of the conference which relate to policy as participants and contributed to various discussions during plenary.
12. The Delegation was welcomed by Dr. Zoe Crème Ramos, Director of the African Cultural Centre “Fernando Ortiz”, who is a researcher and historian. The Delegation was informed on the need for more research on the relationship between traditional culture versus modernity, the promotion and influence of African Culture to the Cuban Culture, the influence and promotion of music and dance, the long cultural history in Santiago De Cuba and the promotion of a rich Cuban Culture.
13. Several thematic areas were covered during the conference proceedings. Some of the key thematic areas discussed in the conference as captured and summarized below:

3.0 DAY ONE: FRIDAY 14TH APRIL 2023

3.0.1 Sessions on Gender, Race and Identity

14. The delegation was informed on the contribution of Afro-Caribbean women leaders in the freedom struggles against slavery and colonialism in Jamaica and Cuba. The women used traditional knowledge and geographical strategies to counter attacks from the settlers while assisting runaway slaves. In the discussions, the contributors called for more research in the area and a need to develop and apply the rich traditional knowledge to address the social, environmental and economic problems in Africa and the Caribbean.
15. National Identity in Cuba is expressed through dance in Rhumba. Rhumba has historically been associated with dark-skinned or black Cubans. Due to this, it is widely acknowledged that when black Cubans and their dances symbolize Cuba, their affinities with all Cubans are invoked. Political implications for supporting Rhumba has helped in eradicating racism and has promoted equality and is promoted in community cultural events.

3.0.2 Meeting with the Director, Fernando Ortiz Centre

16. The delegation paid a courtesy call to Dr. Zoe Crème Ramos, Director of the African Cultural Centre “Fernando Ortiz” who had organized the Conference. The leader of the delegation, Hon. Caroli Omondi presented a book, *The Shades of Benga*, by Kenyan authors Bill Odidi and Tabu Osuma, to the Director. The book gives a history, transition, and influence of Cuban music (Rhumba) to Kenyan music (Benga) from 1946 to 2016. The Director and the leader of the delegation agreed to explore avenues to advance collaboration with sister institutes in Kenya.



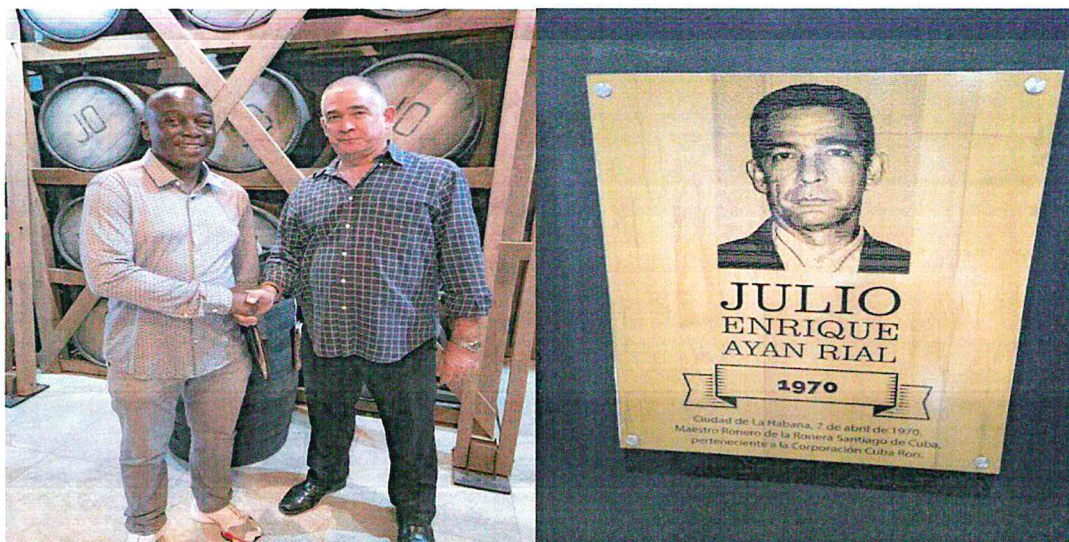
- The delegation led by Hon. Caroli Omondi presenting a book, *Shades of Benga* to Dr. Zoe Crème Ramos, Director, Fernando Ortiz Centre

3.0.3 Field Visit: Historical Tour of Barcardi Rum Factory

- The Delegation with other participants at the conference, got an opportunity to visit the Barcardi Rum Factory in Santiago De Cuba. The factory has great history including before and after the factory was taken over during the Cuban Revolution in 1959. The delegation was taken through the factory's history, production processes and the production range. The factory was opened in 1868 by Facundo Bacardí Massó. There was significance of the Barcardi logo of the fruit bat which signified the importance to the Spanish and Cuban Taíno indigenous people as symbols of good health, family unity, and good fortune. A coconut palm tree was planted in front of the distillery which withstood a fire in the factory, earthquakes and hurricanes symbolizing strength and resilience of the factory. Symbolically, the coconut palm tree withered and died when the Barcardi family fled Cuba after the government confiscated all operations and assets but not before moving all trademarks and the yeast strain out of Cuba. There was interest to have collaboration between the factory and similar businesses in Kenya with the Factory being invited to consider expanding its operations to Kenya and take advantage to the huge market in Africa.



- The Delegation on a historical tour of the Barcardi Rum Factory accompanied by other delegates from Nigeria



- *Hon Caroli Omondi, Leader of the Delegation with Julio Enrique Ayan Rial who worked at the Barcardi Rum Factory in Santiago De Cuba*

3.1 DAY TWO: SATURDAY 15TH APRIL 2023

3.1.1 Sessions on The Ancient Rhythm dedicated to music and dance

18. The delegation got information on the link between music, religion and culture in general. Practitioners in the field of music traced the development of Rhumba in Santiago De Cuba as it is the musical city due to the rhythm of Rhumba. The delegation got to know how Rhumba is symbolic in Cuba as the lyrics and rhythm symbolizes the Cuban culture representing social cultural practices, race and traditional cultures. In addition, Rhumba in Santiago De Cuba is different than any other part of the Country. Rhumba music encouraged the citizens to fight for their freedom during the colonial period.
19. Rhumba was started by three (3) persons in a group which later grew to seven (7) persons in a group. Each neighborhood in Santiago De Cuba played a different kind of Rhumba and the dances were choreographed using Machetes by Ernesto Armiñan. Santiago De Cuba has carnivals which has great history from the colonial period by the Spaniards with the summer carnival for freed African slaves and African descendants dancing in traditional cultures and wearing traditional clothes and the winter carnival for the European culture.

3.1.2 Meeting with the Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Santiago de Cuba

20. The delegation held a meeting with the Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Cuba, Santiago de Cuba Branch. Also present during the meeting was Maria Adams Espino, Director for International Relations, the provincial government of Santiago de Cuba and Dr. Yohandra Semanat Ortiz, Vice-Rector for Extension, Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba.
21. The Chamber of Commerce made a presentation on investment opportunities identified for foreign investors in the Province. He also invited Kenya to consider participation at the Expo Caribe Trade Fair to be held in June 2023, in Santiago de Cuba.

22. The delegation requested the Chamber of Commerce to share the details of the projects set aside for foreign investment in the province. The delegation also proposed that the province be represented in the business delegation accompanying the President of the Republic of Cuba during the proposed tour of Africa which includes a visit to Kenya.



- *The Delegation meeting with the Santiago De Cuba, Chamber of Commerce*

3.1.3 Field Visit: Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso General Hospital

23. The delegation visited and toured the Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso level III General Hospital in Santiago de Cuba. The hospital has a 784-bed capacity and provides treatment, diagnostic, research and teaching services. The Hospital serves the Province of Santiago de Cuba and provides research and referral services to other provinces in eastern Cuba.
24. The hospital is also involved in international collaboration activities. Currently, the hospital has students and researchers from different parts of the world including Africa. Three doctors from the Hospital are part of the brigade currently serving in Kenya. One of the doctors working in the hospital was part of the 43rd Henry Reeve Brigade sent to Kenya in 2020 to assist the country to counter the COVID-19 pandemic. The Brigade was based at the Kenyatta University Teaching and Research and Referral Hospital for six months. Cuban doctors have also been able to undertake missions in other parts of Africa such as Mali, Nigeria, Angola, Tanzania etc. African doctors have also received training in various medical disciplines in Cuba.
25. The Delegation was informed on the Malaria Vector Control Programme that was launched in July 2021 with the aim of controlling malaria by spraying mosquito-breeding sites using Biolarvacides from a Cuban Company called Labiofam. Ten (10) Cuban experts were sent to Kenya to conduct the programme and worked in Busia, Homabay, Kisumu, Migori and Siaya Counties.



- *The Delegation meeting with the Management and Doctors at Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso General Hospital in Santiago De Cuba*



- *The Delegation with the Director of the Hospital, Director in charge International Health Cooperation in the Province and doctors who served in health missions in Kenya with the Henry Reeve Brigade*



- *The Delegation and other guest being taken through a model of Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso General Hospital in Santiago De Cuba*

3.2 DAY THREE: SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023

3.2.1 Field Visit: Historical Tour of Santa Ifigenia Cemetery

26. The delegation visited the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery in Santiago De Cuba where the Fidel Castro and José Martí graves are located and other notable Cubans. There is a mausoleum in honour of José Martí at the cemetery which is guarded by Cuban soldiers. The cemetery has the statue of Perucho Figueredo Cisneros who was also called Perucho, a Cuban poet and a freedom fighter who wrote the Cuban National Anthem.
27. Other notable monuments and mausoleums are in honour of Emilio Barcardi Moreau who was the son of the founder of Barcardi, Facundo Bacardí Massó, a mausoleum where the remains of ten (10) Cuban patriots shot during the struggle for Cuba's freedom. In addition, a monument for Tomás Estrada Palma is located at Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, who was the first president of Cuba.



- *The Delegation at Santa Ifigenia Cemetery in front of Fidel Castro grave where they laid flowers at the monument*



- *A monument at Santa Ifigenia Cemetery of Pedro Figueredo Cisneros (Perucho), a Cuban revolutionary and poet, who composed the National Anthem of Cuba*

3.3 DAY FOUR: TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023

3.3.1 Courtesy Call at the Embassy of Kenya in Havana and Meeting with Buena Vista Social Club

28. While in Havana, the delegation met the representatives of the Buena Vista Social Club. The meeting took place at the Embassy of Kenya in Havana. Also present was Amb. Gathoga W. Chege, MBS, Ambassador of Kenya. The Buena Vista Social Club is a group of Cuban musicians that was established in 1996. The group is named after the members' club in the Buenavista quarter of Havana, a popular music venue in the 1940s.
29. During the meeting Amb. Gathoga W. Chege emphasized the role of people to people contacts and the interaction between cultures to promote understanding between peoples and bilateral relations between countries. The leader of the Delegation, Hon. Caroli Omondi presented a book, *The Shades of Benga*, by Kenyan authors Bill Odidi and Tabu Osusa, to the Buena Vista Social Club members.
30. The leader of delegation noted the influence of the group in the development of Benga Music in Kenya and invited the members of the club to visit and perform in Kenya after their planned tour to Europe. Hon. Caroli Omondi undertook to collaborate with the French Cultural Centre/Alliance Francaise to facilitate the tour.



- *The Delegation led by Hon. Caroli Omondi accompanied by Amb. Gathoga W. Chege, presenting a book, Shades of Benga, to the Buena Vista Social Club*



- *The Delegation led by Hon. Caroli Omondi accompanied by Amb. Gathoga W. Chege during a meeting with the Buena Vista Social Club. Ms. Hernandez (centre) assisting the Delegation on Spanish translation during the meeting.*

3.4 DAY FIVE: WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2023

3.4.1 Field Visit: Historical Tour of Havana

31. The delegation was able to take a tour around the Capital City of Cuba, Havana. There was much appreciation of the diverse styles of architecture in the city. However, many buildings have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The delegation visited building and streets of Old Havana and Centro Habana and noted that most areas of the city, especially the highly populated districts, are in urban decay. The delegation got to visit the site where the Hotel Saratoga explosion took place in 2022 in Old Havana.

32. Havana was founded by Spanish Colonist in 1519 which grew to become one of the Caribbean's shipbuilding centres. Old Havana is listed as a World Heritage Site and the Delegation was able to visit various historical landmarks such as La Cabana and the Great Theatre of Havana.
33. The delegation visited the Revolution Plaza, which is a grand square honouring national heroes, where there is a monument in honour of José Martí and a lookout tower. Next to the square is the Steel Memorial of Che Guevara and the Steel Memorial of Camilo Cienfuegos. One of the largest and oldest universities in Cuba is located in Havana is the University of Havana which dates to 1728.

3.5 DAY SIX: THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023

3.5.1 Field Visit: Historical tour of Hotel Nacional De Cuba

34. The delegation was given a tour of the Hotel Nacional which was built in 1930. The hotel has a lot of history as it was the hotel that hosted the Havana Conference and had a mob presence in the 1940s with Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky residing in the hotel.
35. The design of the hotel contains a mixture of styles such as Sevillian, Roman, Moorish and Art Deco. The lobby tile is original, featuring symbols from Catalonia, Granada and Castile and León, the Spanish regions with the most commercial influence in Cuba. The hotel is a National Monument and is a beacon for Cuban history as well as culture.

3.6 Field Visit of Monuments and Mausoleums in Cuba

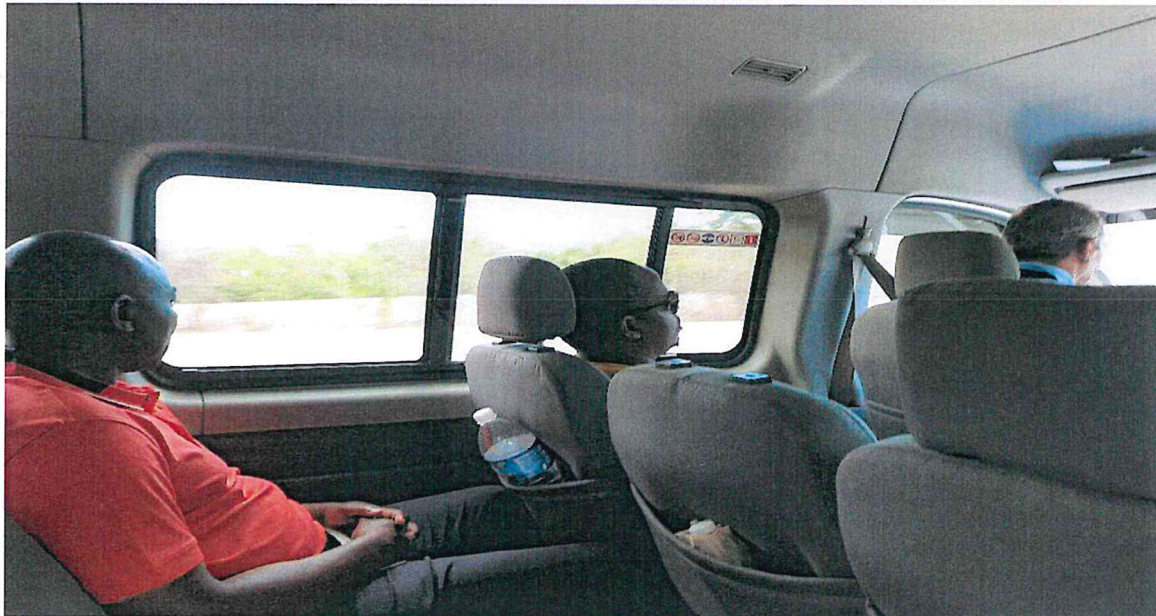
36. The Delegation visited various monuments and mausoleums in Cuba such as the Revolution Square in Havana, the Steel Memorial of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, José Martí Mausoleum at the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery and the Revolution Square in Santiago De Cuba. The Delegation noted that Cuba takes pride in honouring their heroes and heroines who fought for independence from the Spanish rule and other heroes who had impact in the industrial revolution of Cuba such as Emilio Barcadi Moreau.



- *Monuments and Mausoleums the Delegation visited; (from top left) Steel Memorial of Camilo Cienfuegos, Steel Memorial of Che Guevara, Revolution Square in Havana, Revolution Square in Santiago De Cuba, Emilio Barcadi Moreau monument and José Martí Mausoleum.*

3.7 Havana to Santiago De Cuba

37. The organizers of the 21st International Conference of African and African American Culture made arrangements for the Delegation to make a round trip from Havana to Santiago De Cuba on Thursday 13th April 2023 and a return trip on Monday 17th April 2023. The journey was a 900 km trip on the Autopista Nacional and the Carr Central De Cuba Motorway which took around 14 hours with stopovers in-between.
38. The motorway is the longest in Cuba with a 6-lane dual carriageway and two-way traffic in the rural areas of Cuba. The Delegation travelled through several urban and rural towns of Cuba such as Jaguey Grande, El Maja, Ciego De Avila, Camaguay, Guaimaro, Las Tunas, Bayamo, and Contramaestre before arriving in Santiago De Cuba.
39. The Delegation was able to see vast sugar plantations in the country as sugar is one of the major exports of the Cuba and modern and traditional architecture of the towns. The towns have lots of history, tradition and culture from the people to the architecture. The Government and its people have taken great steps in preserving the colonial charm of these cities since Camaguay is listed as a World Heritage Site.



- *The Delegation during the round trip from Havana to Santiago De Cuba to attend the 21st International Conference of African and African American Culture*

PART V

5. COOPERATION BETWEEN KENYA AND CUBA

40. Cooperation between Kenya and Cuba is mainly in the health sector, notably through the provision of medical services where 100 Cuban medical doctors were deployed in all 47 Counties between 2018 and 2021. Other programmes include post-graduate training of Kenyan students in Cuba and undergraduate scholarships where Cuba provides two (2) scholarships for undergraduate training in medicine each year. Currently, there are 12 Kenyan students at various levels of undergraduate training in Cuba.

3.7.1 Opportunities for Cooperation

- i. Trade – Cuba is willing to introduce limited reforms in retail and wholesale trade to address the challenges of scarcity of consumer goods in the market.
- ii. Renewable Energy – Kenya and Cuba can explore collaboration in the renewable energy sector, with Kenya providing technical support in tapping wind, solar and geothermal energy, to solve the increased electrical blackouts across Cuba.
- iii. Transport – Possibility of having direct flight connections between Kenya and Cuba that will increase people-to-people visits. The Kenyan business community can take advantage of the flight to explore business opportunities in the Cuban Market.
- iv. Technology – Kenya and Cuba can explore opportunities in the technology industry given that Kenya is more advanced.
- v. Implementation of signed instruments for bilateral cooperation – Kenya and Cuba have signed additional Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) for collaboration in Agriculture, Sports and Culture and between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the two countries.

PART VI

6. CHALLENGES

41. Some of the challenges the Delegation faced while attending the conference in Santiago De Cuba included;
- i. Language barrier – The official language of Cuba is Spanish and without a translator, communication can be challenging
 - ii. Roaming challenges – Mobile networks such as Safaricom and Airtel are unable to roam in Cuba. Internet is only available through data once you possess a local Cuban line or after purchasing a temporary or permanent account on Nauta.

PART VII

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

42. The Delegation having followed the discussions in various sessions during the conference noted that Kenyan culture and its heritage are not fully appreciated. The delegation is in agreement with the various discussions at the conference that there is a need for more research and support towards the preservation of Kenyan traditional culture and heritage sites.
43. Thus, drawing from the various lessons learnt from the Conference, the delegation makes the following recommendations:
- i. There is a need to explore mechanisms of supporting academic research of the African Culture and the influence of modernity in the Country;
 - ii. There is a need for the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture to ensure that monuments and heritage sites are restored and preserved and also embark on constructing new national monuments to honour our Kenyan heroes and heroines that can turn into tourist attractions;
 - iii. The relevant government agencies should preserve and promote music and dance that promotes the Country's cultural heritage;
 - iv. Through the State Department for Culture and Heritage, there is a need for the Government to establish a tertiary institution dedicated to the research, promotion, and preservation of history, culture and heritage. This will include training in archaeology, anthropology, heritage sciences, training of curators and archivists, library and information sciences;
 - v. There is a need for the relevant government agencies to enlist the services of Curators, Archaeologists, Anthropologists, Historians, and Archivists among others in reaching out and capacity building in order to promote the Country's history, culture and heritage;
 - vi. There is a need for the government to give enough financial support to Kenyan students learning in the diaspora and establish more foreign exchange programmes that will encourage cultural exchange, promote exposure and exchange of ideas;
 - vii. There is a need for Parliament to establish a Parliamentary caucus to provide a platform for interested Parliamentarians to champion the country's history, culture and heritage within the Legislature in Kenya;
44. The proposed recommendations will augment the existing efforts aimed at promoting and preserving the Country's cultural heritage leading to the full appreciation of Culture and Heritage in the Country.

SIGNED: DATE: 15/8/2023

HON. DANIEL WANYAMA SITATI, MP
(CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS AND CULTURE)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	
DATE [20] 16 AUG 2023	DAY
TABLED BY:	
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	

