

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 APR 2025	
DAY: Tuesday	
TABLED BY:	Vice-chairperson, Committee on Defence, Intelligence & Foreign Relations Hon. Abdullahi Bashir, MP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	Gebude

Approved
SNA
18/3/25



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION (2025)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

REPORT ON:

THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICE (MCS) EXERCISE IN TEXAS FROM 4TH TO 7TH APRIL, 2024

CLERK'S CHAMBERS

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

NAIROBI

MARCH, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
LIST OF ANNEXURES	2
LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD	3
1.0 PREFACE	4
1.1 Introduction.....	4
1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee	4
1.3 Committee Subjects	4
1.4 Committee Membership	5
1.5 Committee Secretariat	6
1.6 Delegation	6
1.7 Acknowledgement	6
2.0 MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICES- USA, HOUSTON, TEXAS	7
2.1 Background Information.....	7
2.2 Mobile Consular Service Activity in the United States of America.....	7
2.2.1 Massachusetts, Boston (30 th March – 2 nd April 2024)	8
2.2.2 Texas, Houston (4 th – 7 th April 2024).....	8
2.2.3 Washington, Seattle (9 th – 12 th April 2024)	8
3.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS	10
4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	11

LIST OF ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered and adopted the Report
- Annexure 2: Minutes of the Committee

LEADER OF DELEGATION'S FOREWORD

The report documents the participation of a delegation from the Committee in the Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Exercise in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024. The participation in the activity aimed to assess how the MCS Exercise was being conducted and the challenges faced that would inform recommendations for future improvements.

Participation in the MCS Exercise was conducted in Sugars Restaurant, Missouri City between 4th and 7th April, 2024. The consular services availed for the Kenyan Diaspora Community in Houston, Texas were: Passport application and renewals; National Identification card registration; Document Attestation; Birth Certificate Registration; declaration of dual citizenship; Emergency Certificate and Regaining of Kenyan Citizenship.

Having participated in the MCS Exercise in Houston, Texas, the delegation made the following recommendations:

1. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs should ensure that budgeting, funding, and staffing for MCS activities are always finalized before the execution of an activity to avoid facilitation challenges.
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 prompt and responsive 24-hour customer service support for the E-Citizen platform; and
 - c) Upgrade the e-citizen platform to enable Kenyans to apply for different services from across the globe.
7. The National Registration Bureau to provide digital fingerprint capture systems for Identity Card applications for accuracy and efficiency.
8. The government to reassess the user journey on the E- Citizen platform, particularly in the registration process for passports and IDs to avoid experiencing difficulties in uploading documents, paying and downloading the documents needed for passport application.
9. Pursuant to Standing Order (S.O) 199(6), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its participation in the MCS Exercise in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024.

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP.

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

1. This report details the involvement of a delegation from the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations in the Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Activity held in Houston, Texas from 4th to 7th April 2024.
2. Participation in the MCS Activity enabled the Committee to discharge its oversight responsibilities concerning the utilisation of resources allocated to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs. Furthermore, it afforded valuable insights into the challenges encountered during the activity, thereby informing the Committee's recommendations for future improvements.

1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

3. The Departmental Committee on Defence Intelligence and Foreign Relations is one of the Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under Standing Order 216 whose mandates, pursuant to the Standing Order 216 (5) includes, among others, *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.*

1.3 Committee Subjects

4. The subject matter of the Committee is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes, among others, *foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, and international relations.*
5. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):
 - a) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;
 - b) The Ministry of Defence;
 - c) The State Department for East African Community Affairs (EAC); and
 - d) The National Intelligence Service (NIS).

1.4 Committee Membership

6. The Committee was constituted by the House on 27th October 2022 and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Koech Nelson, 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, M.P.

Gilgil Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Joshua Kandie, M.P.

Baringo Central Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, M.P.

Kamkunji Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P.

Kinangop Constituency

Jubilee Party

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, 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, MP

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 Secretariat comprises the following technical staff:

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

Mr. Lenny Muchangi
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Bernard Njeru
Clerk Assistant III

Mr. Salat Ali
Principal Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Edwin Machuki
Fiscal Analyst III

Ms. Noelle Chelagat
Media Relations Officer I

Mr. John Ng'ang'a
Audio Recording Officer

Mr. Daniel Ominde
Research Officer III

1.6 Delegation

8. The delegation that visited comprised of:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| a) Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P. | - | Leader of Delegation |
| b) Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni | - | Member |
| c) Mr. Bernard Njeru | - | Delegation Secretary |

1.7 Acknowledgement

9. The Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. Further, the Committee appreciates the State Department for Diaspora Affairs for coordinating the participation of the delegation in the MCS exercise.
10. 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 the Participation in the Diaspora Mobile Consular Service (MCS) Exercise in Texas from 4th to 7th April, 2024.

2.0 MOBILE CONSULAR SERVICES- USA, HOUSTON, TEXAS

2.1 Background Information

11. Access to Government Services is a constitutional right for every Kenyan citizen. However, Kenyan citizens residing abroad, referred to as the Kenyan Diaspora, frequently encounter challenges in accessing essential government services, such as obtaining critical documentation, including National Identity Cards and Passports. National Identity Cards are particularly required by second-generation immigrants over the age of 18, while Passports are primarily needed by first-generation immigrants and undocumented Kenyans who need to replace their previous passports.
12. The Government has previously endeavoured to provide services to the Kenyan Diaspora through missions, but challenges have arisen regarding access to the central registry and technological issues with the e-citizen platform. Consequently, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) has initiated a programme to offer Mobile Consular Services (MCS) to the Kenyan Diaspora. This initiative follows a Presidential Directive issued by President Hon. Dr. William Ruto in December 2022, which mandates the relevant Ministries to address the needs of the Kenyan Diaspora and acknowledge their significance to the Kenyan economy.
13. In this regard, the State Department has commenced the Third Phase of Mobile Consular Services (MCS) in the United States of America (USA) to provide Kenyans living abroad with essential consular services.
14. The essential services offered included:
 - a) application and renewal of passports;
 - b) application and replacement of National Identity Cards (IDs);
 - c) application of birth certificates;
 - d) regaining and declaration of dual citizenship;
 - e) issuance of Emergency travel documents; and
 - f) document attestation.
15. Phase III of the MCS activity by the SDDA targeted three states in the United States of America which include: Massachusetts, Boston; Texas, Houston; and Washington, Seattle.

Summary of Number of Services Offered During MCS Phase III in the United States of America

	Passport	ID	Emergency Certificate	Attestation of documents	Declaration of Dual Citizenship	Regaining Kenyan Citizenship	Birth Certificate	Total Number of services
Massachusetts, Boston	459	361	0	0	11	4	9	844
Texas, Houston	400	230	0	0	16	4	11	661
Washington, Seattle	356	237	3	1	3	1	9	609
Total	1215	828	3	1	30	6	29	2112

2.2 Mobile Consular Service Activity in the United States of America

16. The activity was conducted in the three States as follows:

2.2.1 Massachusetts, Boston (30th March – 2nd April 2024)

17. As shown in the table above, a total of 844 services were provided in Boston, including the issuance of 459 passports, 361 identification cards, 11 declarations of dual citizenship, 4 regaining of Kenyan citizenship, and 9 birth certificates. This activity took place at the Holiday Inn Express, 8 Independence Dr, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

2.2.2 Texas, Houston (4th – 7th April 2024)

18. As shown in the table above, a total of 661 services were provided in Houston, which included the issuance of 400 passports, 230 identification cards, 16 declarations of dual citizenship, 4 instances of regaining Kenyan citizenship, and 11 birth certificates. This activity was conducted at Sugar's Restaurant, 3424 FM 1092, Missouri City, TX 77459.

Mobile Consular Services Exercise at Houston, Missouri City



(Top left) Kenyans waiting to get services from MCS team at Sugar's Restaurant, 3424 FM 1092, Missouri City, TX 77459, (bottom left) MCS Houston Team headed by Ms. Irene Karari, Ag. Director, Skills and Expertise Division-MFA (second right) brief Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP Saboti on the Services offered by the MCS team, (top right) Hon.(Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P Kitui County and Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP have a light moment with Kenyans in Houston, Missouri city sugars restaurant where the mcs 2024, exercise is taking place. (Bottom right) Hon.(Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P and Hon. Caleb Amisi, MP representing the Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on oversight mandate in Texas, Houston, one of the three States in the USA where MCS exercise is being conducted in March and April, 2024.

2.2.3 Washington, Seattle (9th – 12th April 2024)

19. As shown in the table above, a total of 609 services were provided in Seattle, comprising 356 passports, 237 identification cards, 3 emergency travel certificates, 1 document attestation, 3 declarations of dual citizenship, 1 instance of regaining Kenyan citizenship, and 9 birth certificates.

3.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

20. The Committee observed the following:

- 1) During the exercise the E-Citizen portal encountered challenges causing inconveniences;
 - a) The E-citizen portal requires individuals to have a Kenyan phone number to enable them to log in. Many Kenyan Diaspora members do not have a Kenyan phone number, making it impossible for them to log in.
 - b) The E-Citizen portal experienced software bugs. The issue affected users who had registered on the platform using their email addresses, as they were unable to receive the One Time Password (OTP) necessary to access, pay, and download the documentation required for passport applications.
 - c) Difficulties in uploading documents on the requisite portals.
- 2) Passports and National identification cards were the most sought-after documents.
- 3) Volunteers' inconsistent availability led to planning gaps and required the MCS team and Embassy staff to work late due to the Kenyan Diaspora's significant turnout.
- 4) A large majority of the Kenyan diaspora did not receive enough information about the requirements for registering for consular services. Additionally, many were unaware of the availability of the Mobile Consular Services programme.
- 5) The National Registration Bureau was still using manual ink-rolled fingerprint capture for ID card applications which is old-fashioned.
- 6) There was inadequate facilitation of volunteers.
- 7) Many Kenyans arrived at the MCS exercise unprepared, failing to fill out the necessary forms and bring copies of their documents. This caused delays and prevented some individuals from accessing the services they required.
- 8) The Kenyan Diaspora expressed concerns regarding data privacy, particularly concerning the use of email addresses and phone numbers required for e-citizen accounts. Some individuals requested the deletion of their photographs, which impeded data collection efforts and reflected a lack of trust in government-led initiatives.
- 9) Limited digital literacy among a specific group of Kenyans resulted in their inability to apply for passports online, necessitating assistance from the on-the-ground team.

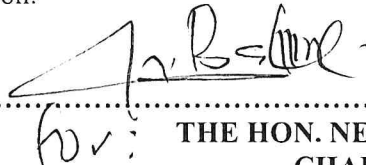
4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

21. The Committee recommends the following:

1) The State Department should ensure that:

- a) Kenyan Mission in the USA is properly involved from the inception stage of the execution of the program.
- b) There is deployment of more officers from the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to cater for the large number of Kenyans who turn up for the services in future.
- c) There is thorough sensitization for Kenyans on how to fill out E-Citizen forms online, the MCS dates, and venues to avoid unnecessary inconveniences and delays.
- d) There is availability of adequate funds before commencement of the outreach programme since financing of the MCS exercise is a key determinant of its success.
- e) Adequate facilitation of the MCS team and volunteers with relevant requirements including live fingerprint capture for Identity Card applications for accuracy and speedy service delivery, branded t-shirts and caps for easier identification.
- f) There is prior preparation of the MCS exercise Stations with clearly labeled workstations.
- g) There is enhancement of the E-Citizen platform (in conjunction with other stakeholders in the executive) to make it more user-friendly for the diaspora community in terms of payments and uploading required documents.

2) The Diaspora Community should create a requisition register before the MCS exercise. This will help the implementation team to plan and allocate resources based on reliable information.


SIGNED:  DATE: 14/3/2025
for: THE HON. NELSON KOECH, MP
CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN
RELATION

LIST OF ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered and adopted the Report

Annexure 2: Minutes of the Committee

Annexure I: Signed list of Members who attended the sitting which considered and adopted the Report

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 APR 2025	DAY.
TABLED BY:	
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	




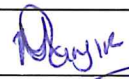
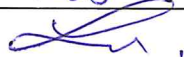





**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13TH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION-2024**

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND
FOREIGN RELATIONS.**

REPORT ADOPTION LIST

**REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIASPORA MOBILE CONSULAR
SERVICE (MCS) IN TEXAS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM 4TH TO 7TH
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, **Thursday 14th NOVEMBER, 2024.**

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Koech Nelson, MP (Chairperson)	
2.	The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, MP (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	The Hon. Yusuf Hassan Abdi, CBS, MP	
4.	The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, CBS, MP	
5.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, MP	
6.	The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP	
7.	The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, MP	
8.	The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP	
9.	The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, MP	
10.	The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, MP	
11.	The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP	
12.	The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, MP	
13.	The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, MP	
14.	The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP	
15.	The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, MP	

August 8