

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

**REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT
VISIT TO THE UGANDAN MISSION IN KINSASHA - DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

SEPTEMBER 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rt. Hon Speaker, in accordance with Rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure, sectoral Committees of Parliament are mandated to examine policy, bills and budgets; initiate action programmes; and monitor Government's performance and the compliance with budgets and approved plans. The mandate of the Committee on Foreign Affairs covers two broad areas:

- a. Missions abroad and;
- b. Bilateral, multi-lateral and intergovernmental relations.

In view of the above mandate, the committee of foreign affair undertook an oversight visit to the Uganda Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to follow up on the key issues identified during the consideration of the Budget for FY2022/23 and the Ministerial Policy Statements. The visit was part of the Committee oversight activity on budget performance and to also understand the challenges faced by the Mission.

This report is laid according to rule 33(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The report is structured as follows:

- i. Introduction
- ii. Methodology
- iii. Findings: observations and recommendations

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The committee used a variety of approaches and methods during this oversight visit to gather information and data. **These include;**

- a) The committee held meetings with Head of Missions and Mission staff of the DRC Mission in Kinshasa and via a Zoom link for the liaison office staff working in Goma
- b) The committee also had interactions with the Uganda Community residing in DRC
- c) Sight visits and observation of ongoing projects including the construction project of the Ugandan chancery and the Ambassador's Residence.
- d) Visited the ware houses where some Uganda traders store their merchandise
- e) The committee reviewed reports prepared by the DRC Mission and other relevant documents provided by the mission including Ministerial policy statements and work plans

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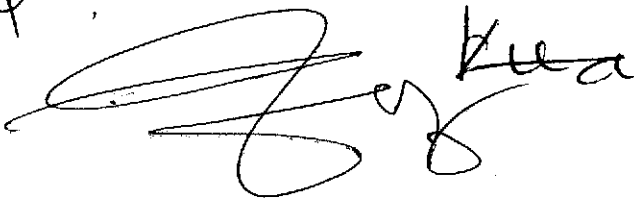

2.1 KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

Rt. Hon Speaker, the main objective of the visit was the execution of the Committee mandate of carrying out oversight to follow the resources appropriated by Parliament as per Article 163(4) which mandate parliament to monitor all government expenditure and Rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament as sited earlier.

2.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Specifically the visit was intended to;

- i) Assess the status of the Mission Charter and its alignment to the NDP III
- ii) Scrutinise the Mission jurisdictions
- iii) Assess the progress of the construction project of the Chancery
- iv) Scrutinise Staffing capacity
- v) Assess the Impact of Economic and Commercial diplomacy activities
- vi) Scrutinise consular services and diaspora engagements of the Mission.
- vii) Establish any other opportunities and challenges pertaining to DRC Mission that require the Intervention of Parliament

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE MISSION

3.1 BRIEF HISTORY

The mission was established after independence. The mission was closed after the War commonly known as the First Congo war, by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, or AFDL that brought into Office former President Laurent Kabila in 1997. During and after this war, all Uganda properties were destroyed. The Embassy re-opened in 2007. The Mission is in charge of government properties, among which include; Uganda house and Chancery building (under construction).

The current Ambassador is H.E. Farid Kalisa

Currently the Embassy is housed in a rented building paying USD 12,000 per month since May 2021 paving way for the construction of the new Chancery. Uganda government has rent arrears for the buildings rented which is now stretching over a whole Year.

3.2 THE MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission statement is as follows: *'To promote and protect Uganda's national interest in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other areas of accreditation by rendering services efficiently and effectively in collaborations with the relevant stakeholders'*

3.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

- a) To promote trade tourism and investment between Uganda and DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Republic of Gabon, Central African Republic, Angola and Republic of Cameroon
- b) To promote peace and security in the great lakes region through cooperation
- c) To strengthen bilateral relations with countries of accreditation i.e DRC
- d) To maximize benefits for regional international organisations in countries of accreditation
- e) To promote sustainable management and cooperation for maximum and peaceful exploitation of natural resources in the Albertine region
- f) To promote and safeguard interests and welfare of Ugandans in the diaspora
- g) To provide diplomatic protocol and consular services

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3.4 JURIDICTION

Hon Speaker and Members the Mission of DRC oversees five other countries which are equally big and these include Congo Brazzaville, Republic of Gabon, Central African Republic, Angola and Republic of Cameroon.

DRC is a big country in itself and travels inland are too expensive, the Head of Mission therefore, beseeched the Committee to ensure that the Ministry of Finance to reinstates the travel budget, to enable the Mission to their work

Uganda has been engaged in lot discussions to solve the insecurity problems in DRC that resulted in to the signing of agreements including the "Operation Shujja" with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Congo (FARDC).

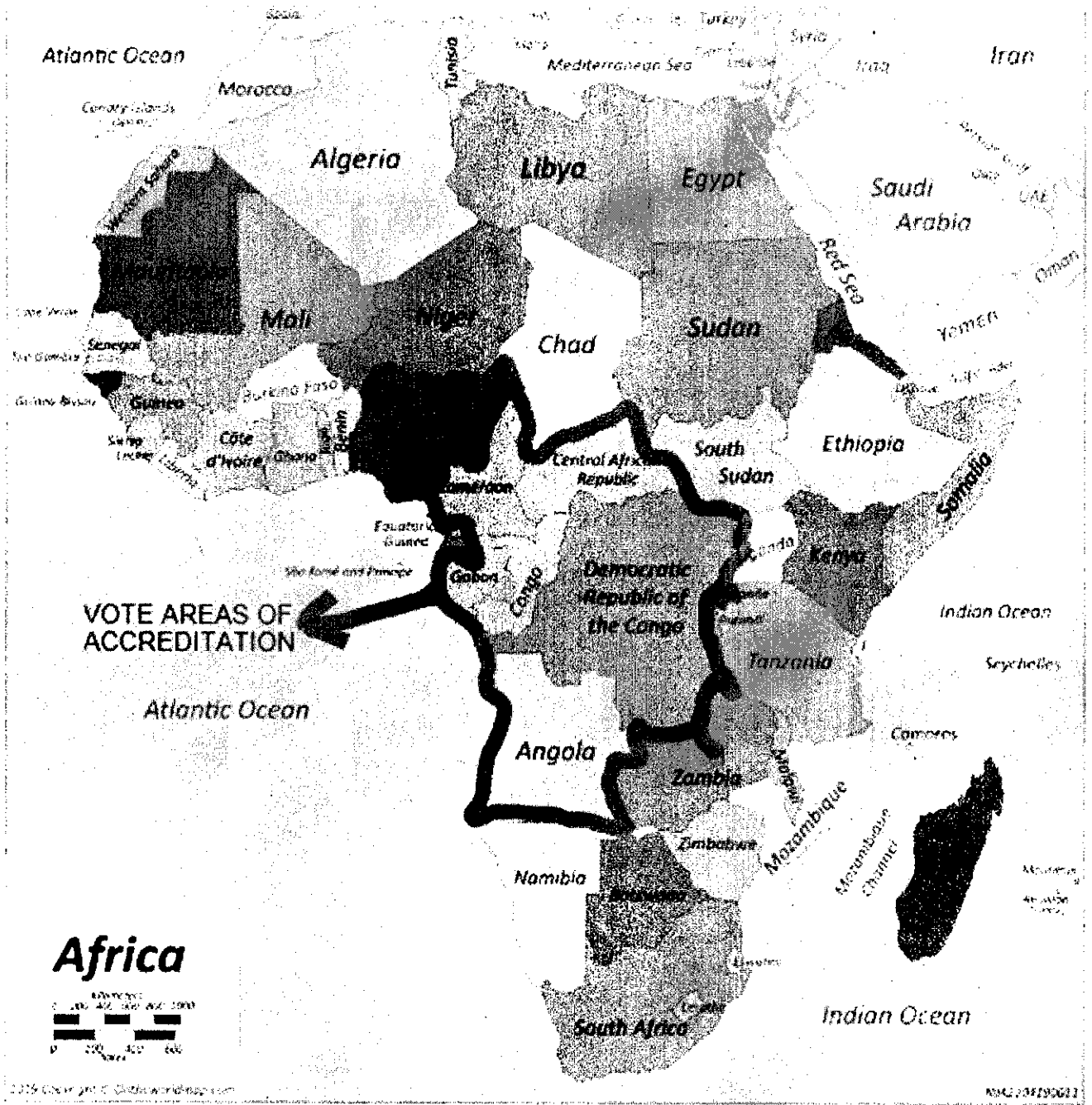
The committee established that a lot of work has been done to clear Uganda's image and reputation from accusations. There have been a lot of engagements in DRC from the highest office, Heads of State, Security agencies, and Ministers among others

As for Goma, where there is a liaison office, the committee established that a lot had been done especially in eastern DRC and the population now has trust in Uganda, especially in areas of operation where communities benefit from the services extended to them by the UPDF e.g. clean water, health services, and other infrastructure

The committee recommends that boarder demarcations should be resurrected to solve problems relating to boarder conflicts especially on the shared waters.

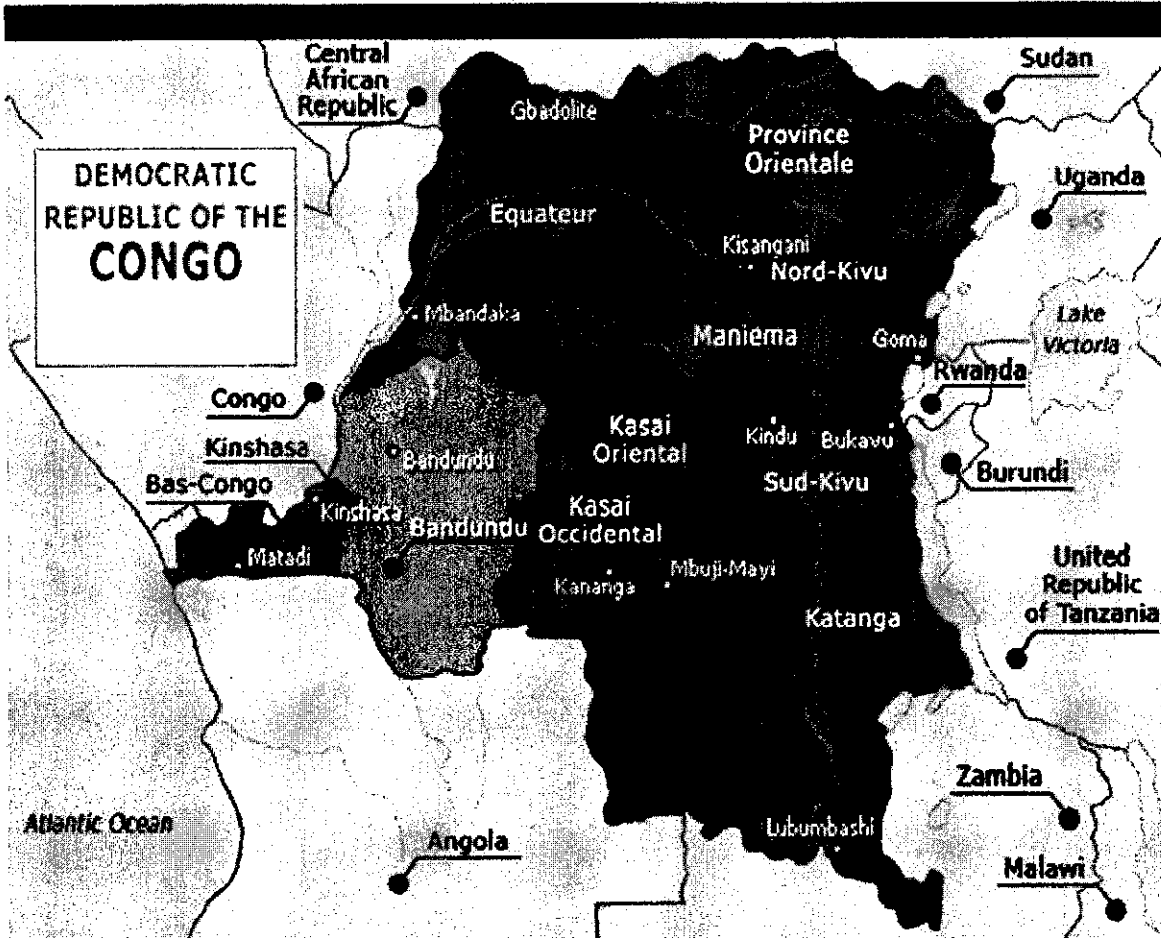
Uganda should continue dialogue with DRC for Image sanitisation and to protect our nationals in DRC

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Map showing areas of DRC Mission accreditation

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Map of DRC

3.5 MISSION CHARTER

Rt . Hon Speaker, the committee established that the Mission Charter expired and that the New Head of mission is yet to get a new Charter that is consistent with the current NDP3 and Uganda's interests in the Congo.

The charter that ended had the following specific outcomes;

- a) Engage/lobby the DRC and other countries of accreditation to be supportive of the various peace building initiatives/processes of interest to Uganda and the Great Lakes Region
- b) Lobby DRC for her understanding and appreciation of Uganda's positions on various issues including Security, terrorism, refugees, exploration and natural resources, Boarder re-

demarcation and others as contained in the Ngurdoto Agreement 2007¹ and other bilateral cooperation agreements

- c) Promote exports to DRC and other countries of accreditation annually
- d) Engage DRC and other countries of accreditation to be supportive regional trade, infrastructural development and other trans-boundary activities aimed at deepening Regional integration
- e) Handle at least 95% of consular cases reported to the Mission annually
- f) Attract tourists from DRC and other countries of accreditation annually
- g) Acquire, develop and maintain Government Property in Kinshasa.
- h) Engage the diaspora for development

The Committee observed and noted with concern that the Mission does not have a Charter that is aligned to the NDP. This does not only affect the Mission operations but also has an impact on budgetary resources allocated to the Mission because without a charter, the Mission cannot be classified. The new charter is hoped will be consistent and aligned to the NDPIII under the new programme approach to budgeting.

We therefore recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should ensure that the all Mission Charters are updated and are aligned to the NDPIII. In particular to the Kinshasa Mission, the Ministry should expedite the process of providing the charter since there are many diplomatic engagements taking place given geo-political situation and also DRC admission to the EAC. This will enable the Mission to get the requisite budgetary allocation given the mandate and wider coverage of other five countries

¹ Ngurdoto-Tanzania Agreement between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Uganda on Bilateral Cooperation Ngurdoto, Tanzania, 8 Sept.2007. It aimed at establishing peace and security in both DRC&Uganda normalising their relations & strengthening their cooperation

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4.0 UGANDA HOUSE KISHANSA AND THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF THE CHANCERY BUILDING

4.1 UGANDA HOUSE IN KINSASHA

Rt. Hon Speaker, the committee visited the Uganda House in Kinshasa to establish and assess its condition. During the site tour the committee was informed that the building was brought down during the war and all properties and equipment rooted and destroyed. The House used to be the Mission and the Chancery but because of location problem and the destruction, the Mission relocated to a rented building. The Uganda House has since then been rehabilitated and is being rented out. However though the house was rehabilitated and being occupied now, more needs to be done on the rehabilitation because some sections of the building are seen with cracks (See photos attached).

The committee was further informed that a total of Ushs. 800 million was money collected in FY21/22 and this forms part of the Non-Tax revenue.

The committee is convinced that further rehabilitation and expansion of the Uganda House will enable the country to collect more Non-Tax Revenue given its strategic location in Kinshasa.

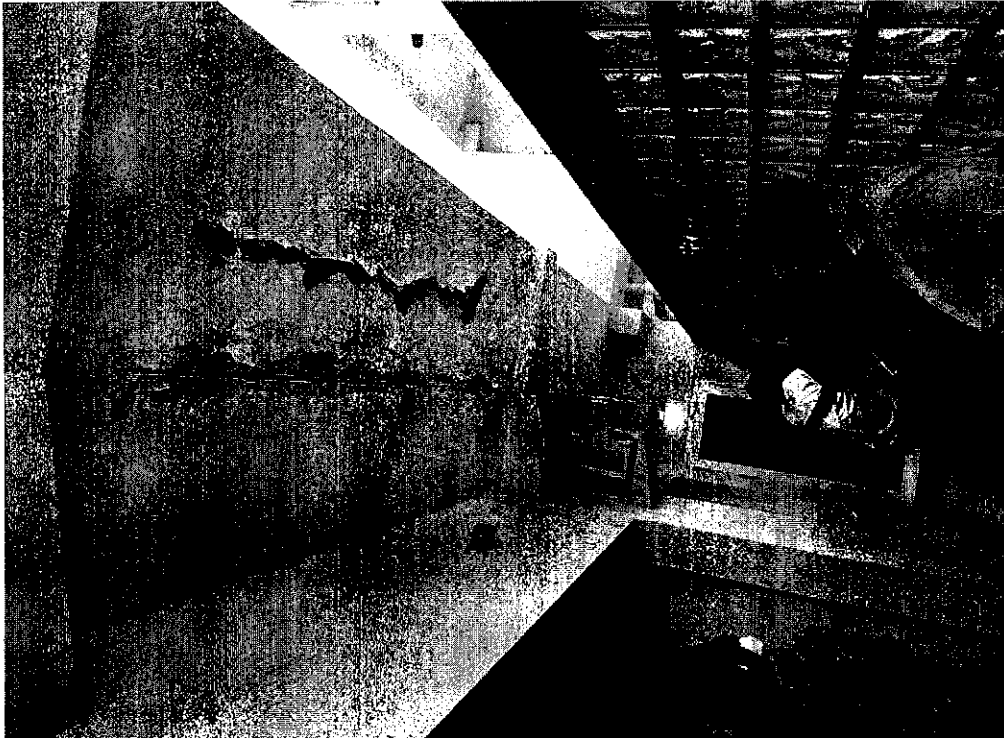


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3.2 NEW CHANCERY BUILDING IN KINSHASA

The committee visited the construction site for the new chancery building. It was established that Uganda was provided with Land on a reciprocal basis during the government of President Idi Amin and President Mobutu. The Street where the property is located was named Uganda Avenue. It's a prime location because it houses other Missions/Embassies and it is very close to the Residence of the former President. It was also established that initially the donated land was utilised and used as the Official Residence of the Ambassador. However, over time the House was dilapidated and demolished.

Rt . Hon Speaker, over the last years Parliament has allocated money to build a new Chancery/Office of the Embassy and construction is under way. The committee was informed that according to the Contractors, over 60% of the work is completed as per attached pictures below.

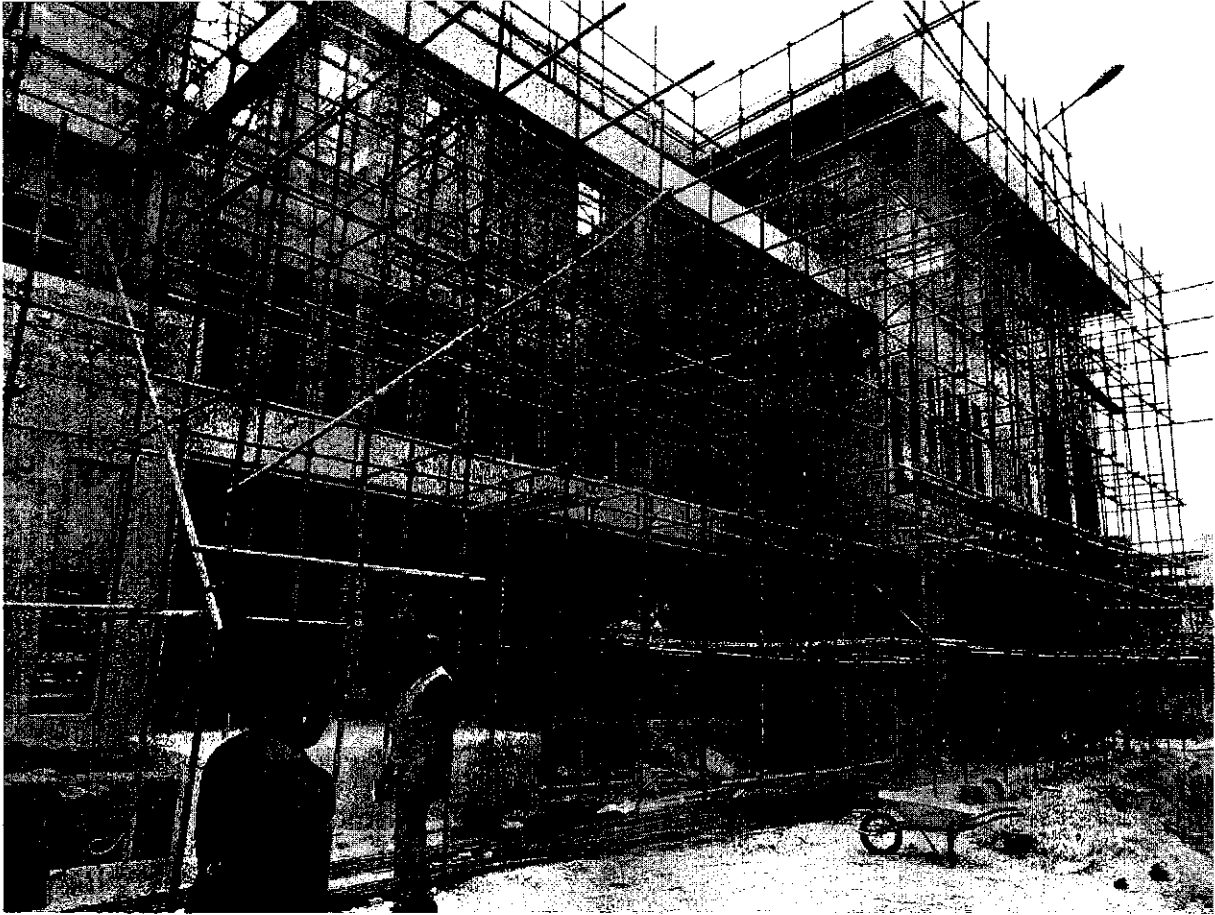
The committee commends the Mission for effective utilisation and monitoring of the project.

We recommend that funds for the remaining part of the project should be provided so that government save money for renting and also to have the Mission in a befitting location.



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The Construction site at 60% progress according to the Contractor



Uganda Embassy Building-Construction site

5.0 STAFFING CAPACITY

5.1 STAFFING STRUCTURE

The Committee was informed that the Mission has had three Ambassadors since re-opening in 2007 after the war.

The committee established that the Mission structure is composed of 8 home based staff and 15 local staff.

These are;

- 1) Head of Mission.
- 2) Deputy head of Mission
- 3) Minister counsellor

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- 4) Defence Attaché
- 5) Councillor/AO
- 6) Councillor/Head Goma Liaison office
- 7) Financial Attaché
- 8) Administrative Attaché

5.2 Challenges faced by members of staff are as follows;

- 1) Availability of several travel documents in DRC which is not the case in Uganda. This complicates both the staff and Ugandan who work in DRC and those who require consular services.
- 2) Insecurity in eastern DRC which affects planned activities for example the Business forum last year was postponed due to insecurity issues.
- 3) Insufficient funding affects implementation of plans in all areas of jurisdiction.
- 4) Non-payment of additional allowance to the additional roles for example Accounting Officer's role has no additional payment
- 5) Poor roads especially in eastern DRC leading to several car breakages and affects accessibility.
- 6) Nationals' perception of our country, Uganda therefore need to clear our image
- 7) Attacks on foreign establishments especially in eastern DRC when ever there is a crisis. It was also noted that the insecurity in eastern DRC have a spill over effect on Uganda and therefore Uganda cannot detach herself from security establishment in DRC and vise versa.
- 8) Connectivity challenges within the country. The country is to very large/big for inland movements which are largely by Air because of lack of road infrastructure.
- 9) There are challenges with online visas especially amongst Congolese who may not find it easy to apply online as well as language barrier on the Ugandan online visa application portal.
- 10) Poor facilitation of officers at Mission in terms of education allowances and family reunions. The committee established all Foreign Service officers are given only US\$2000 which is not enough in many to pay for education expenses.
- 11) Uniform payment of allowances to Foreign Service officers across the board yet the cost of living in deferent countries are not the same.

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6.0 THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY ACTIVITIES.

6.1 OBSERVATIONS ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Rt . Hon Speaker, the delegation was informed that the Mission in Kinshasa is not part of the mission which is considered for commercial and economic diplomacy by the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was Uganda’s number one source of trade surplus in 2020 according to Bank of Uganda trade statistics. Uganda earned \$241 million in trade surplus from DRC in 2020, and \$177 million estimated informal trade exports that push the figure to \$418 million trade earnings. This makes DRC Uganda’s number one source of trade surplus. Such trade statistics make Uganda’s investment infrastructure in eastern DRC ‘tick’.

6.2 VOLUMES OF TRADE AND TRADE BALANCE BETWEEN UGANDA; AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (D.R.C)

Uganda has maintained a positive Trade balance with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This has tremendously increased over time from US \$ 467.52million US\$ 545.72million to US\$ 679.39m in FY 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. *See table below*

Table 1: Trade Volumes and Trade Balance between Uganda and DRC (Congo)

Uganda: Exports (US\$ millions)

	FY	FY	FY
	19/20	20/21	21/22
Saudi Arabia	2.72	4.48	6.65
United Arab Emirates	1,150.18	2,268.55	31.11
Congo (D.R.C)	493.79	570.43	707.90
o/w Formal Trade	249.47	303.56	415.38
Informal trade	244.33	266.88	292.52

Uganda: Imports (million US\$)

	FY	FY	FY
	19/20	20/21	21/22
Saudi Arabia	271.95	213.21	338.47

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United Arab Emirates	542.33	498.14	842.29
Congo (D.R.C)	26.27	24.71	28.50
Balance of Trade (million US\$)			
	FY	FY	FY
	19/20	20/21	21/22
Saudi Arabia	-269.23	-208.74	-331.82
United Arab Emirates	607.85	1,770.41	-811.18
Congo (D.R.C)	467.52	545.72	679.39

6.3 UGANDA EXPORTS TO DRC

Rt . Hon Speaker, the committee established that DRC is one of Uganda top destination for some products. The products trades with DRC include cement, fish, steel products, beer, wheat flour and rice. With the full implementation of the Parish Development Model Programme, it is expected that the volumes of trade will increase hence maintaining the positive balance trade. The table below provides a list of products that are exported to the DRC with their attendant values in US dollars.

Table 2. Uganda's Top Exports to DRC (Values in US \$ Millions)

UGANDA'S TOP EXPORT TO DR CONGO (VALUES - USD MILLIONS)				
Cement	19.335	29.397	34.937	41.714
Palm oil and its fractions	18.871	19.895	23.845	24.003
Beer	6.103	6.586	10.573	12.070
Sugar	16.232	14.420	12.013	11.892
Steel products (Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles)	4.481	7.239	8.189	7.967
Wheat flour	3.675	5.390	7.632	7.579
Rice (wholly or semi-milled)	4.489	1.375	3.466	6.409
Broken rice	13.159	17.511	11.484	6.161
Live cattle	-	-	-	5.734
Steel products (Bars and rods)	6.434	2.534	3.091	5.270

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UGANDA'S TOP EXPORT TO DR CONGO (VALUES - USD MILLIONS)				
Steel products (Nails, tacks, drawing pins, corrugated nails)	1.919	3.053	3.886	4.268
Steel products (Flat-rolled products)	4.697	1.925	2.773	4.137
Sweet biscuits	5.115	4.934	5.036	4.125
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	0.980	1.373	2.691	3.761
Tomatoes	2.206	2.620	3.249	3.658
Industrial spirits	0.032	0.001	2.053	2.809
Cosmetics/Beauty products	0.578	0.158	1.034	2.611
Mineral water	0.441	1.099	1.884	2.550
Corrugated paper boxes and cartons	0.923	1.217	1.705	2.309
Mattresses	-	0.512	1.834	2.099
Sugar confectionaries	0.255	0.369	0.704	2.045
"Maize ""corn"" flour"	0.761	0.432	1.079	2.031
Vegetable fats and oils	0.251	0.182	0.614	1.988
<i>Source: UN COMTrade Database - ITC TradeMap, 2022</i>				

5.4 DRC MARKETS EXPANSION DEMANDS FOR UGANDA PRODUCTS

The committee established that DRC market has become vital for Uganda given DRC admission to the EAC and Kenya's recent schemes to block Uganda products from entering its market.

Rt . Hon Speaker, the committee established that Ugandan products have a comparative quality advantage in DRC mainly because; Uganda produces food products (Beef, fish, chicken and Poultry products of a high quality than what is available in Kinshasa Market. The Food market in Kinshasa can be split in two; the high end consumers (the rich and middle class consisting of person making at least \$500 a month) and the lower-end and poor consumers. Uganda products fit more into the first category.

The committee recommends that Uganda should work on the supply side constraints to increase productivity so that they can have sustainable and consistent supply of commodities to the DRC markets. The challenge in Uganda as established during the visit is lack of reliable supply for almost all commodities. Uganda government should have strategic interventions to increase production to specifically target this market.

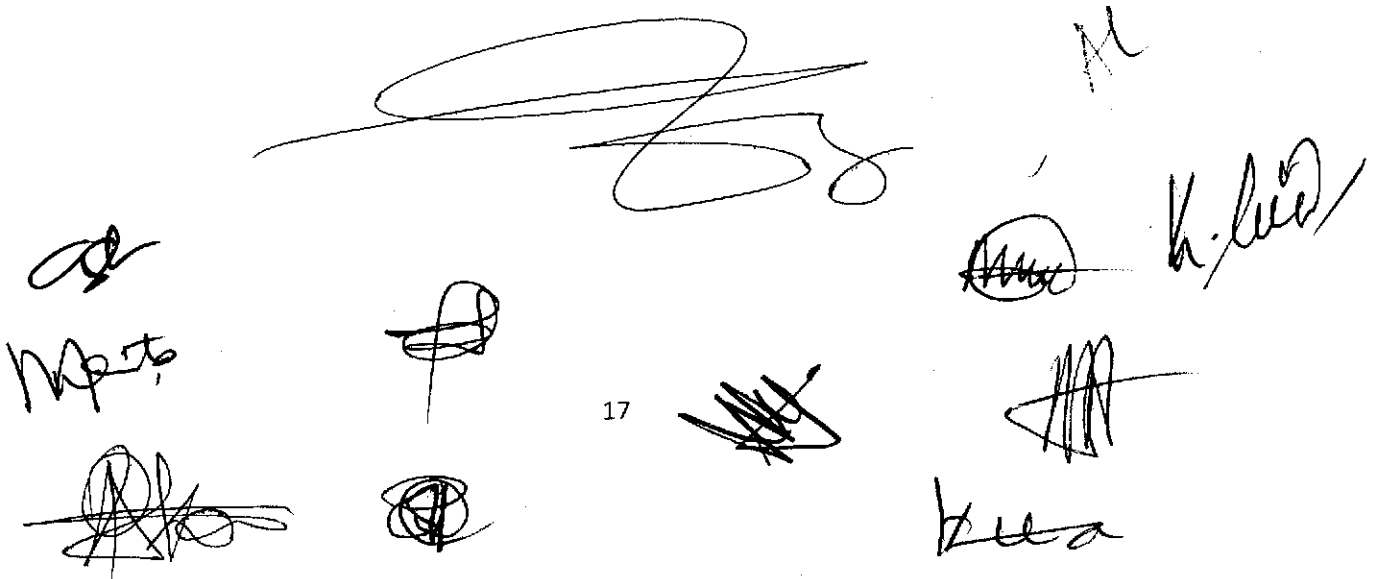
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5.5 THE IMPACT OF UGANDA AIRLINES

Rt . Hon Speaker, the Uganda Airlines has also added to the Economic and commercial diplomacy justification for Congo. During our visit, the CAA and DRC government counter parts signed agreements for Uganda Airlines to be given more routes to other destinations in DRC. These include Goma and Lubumbashi. This will be additional to the five weekly flights to Kinshasa that are currently being operated by the national carrier. In future government needs to plan to add on the current fleet of Aircrafts because other countries in the neighborhood of DRC are also yearning for the services of the Uganda Airlines. For example, the Republic of CONGO.(Congo Brazzaville)

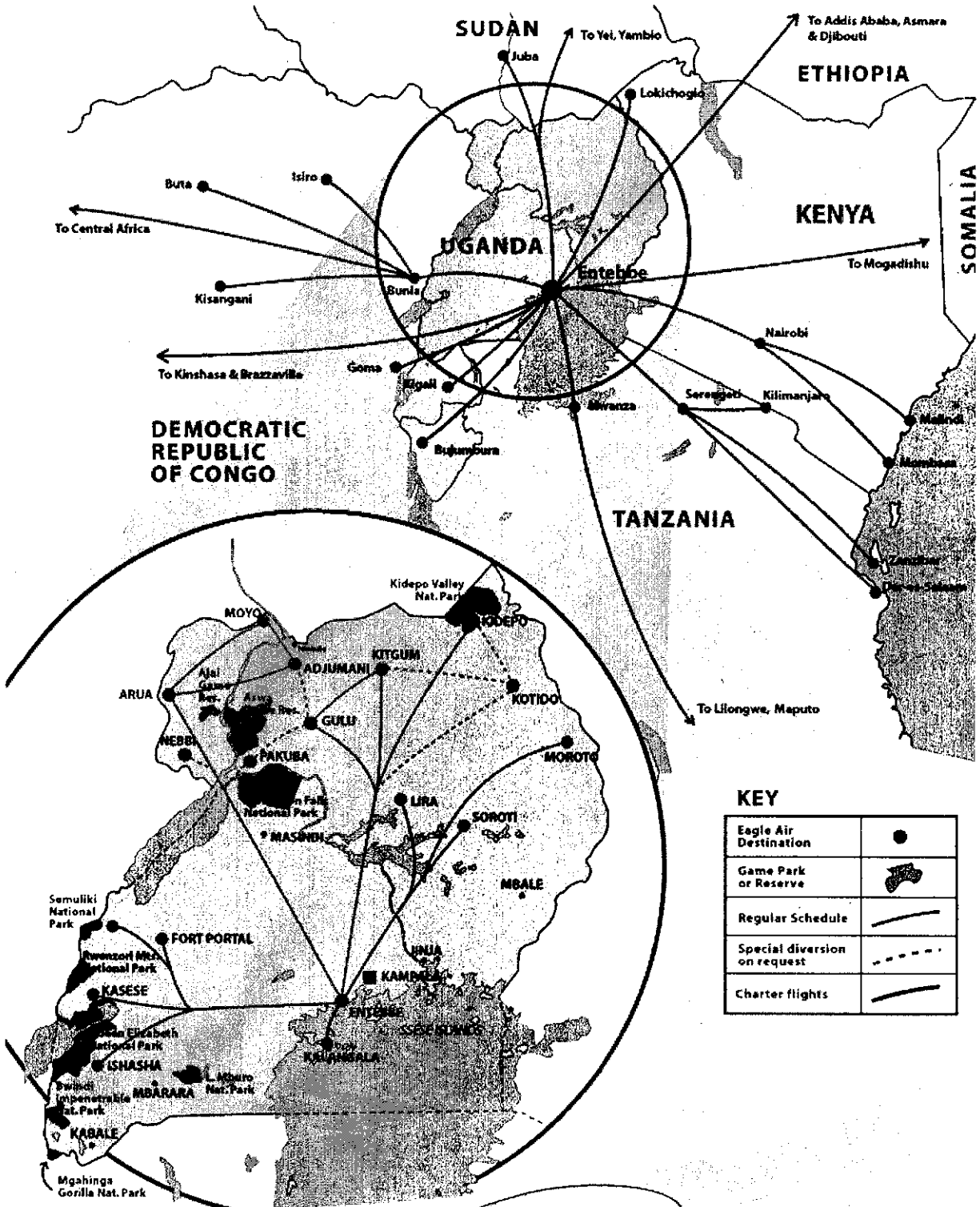
The committee established that there exists a potentially lucrative market in Kinshasa for high value items such as spare parts and hardware, which can take advantage of Uganda Airlines air connection

The Uganda Airlines Map shows the coverage of the current routes and the proposed new routes.



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The Committee recommends that Uganda Airlines should be considered as a strategic investment by adding funds for purchase of more aircrafts. The DRC market is for real for both passenger and cargo planes given the vastness and lack of road infrastructure.

5.6 FREE TRADE WAREHOUSE AND COLD ROOMS

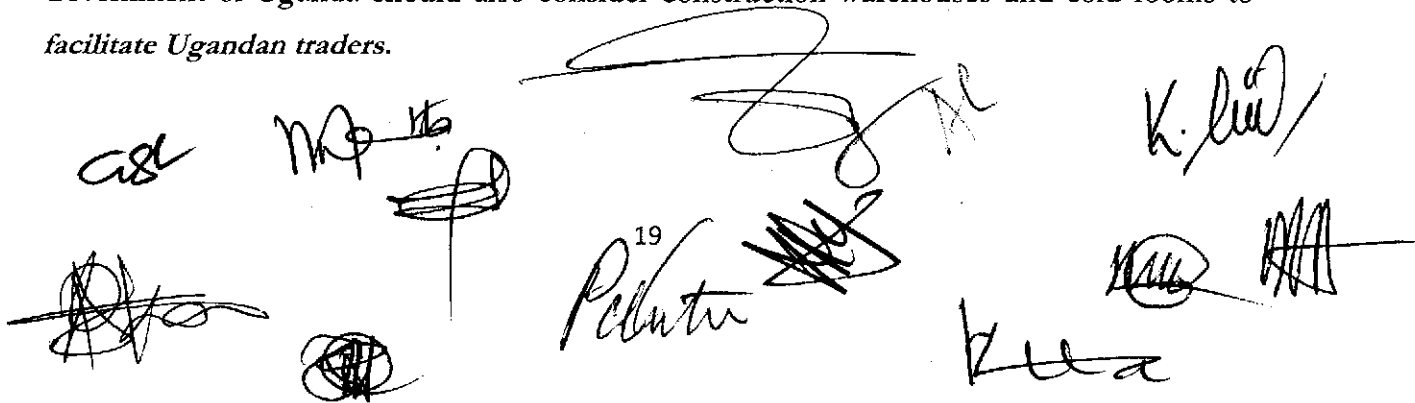
The committee established that Ugandan traders are suffering the burden of transportation given the state of roads in the DRC. Government of Uganda's participation in the road projects is intended primarily to facilitate trade. However, there is urgent need for establishing storage facilities and a free processing zone. Kenya has moved faster in acquiring big chunks of land to establish warehouses.

Uganda needs to get a reliable supplier who can consistently and reliably supply to the available market and meet the demand. The market in DRC is very big and therefore needs a reliable supplier. Kasindi – Mpondwe is an effective cattle movement corridor; however our government needs to encourage value addition on animal products than selling live animals

The committee also established that the Eastern Part of DRC where Uganda has a lot of commercial interest houses over 43 million people. Uganda has a huge comparative advantage in most of the products consumed. The main challenge could be supply response issues and sustainability of the markets. Government has invested heavily in ensuring security of the Borders and inside Congo and this should be leveraged by benefiting from the trade and other investments.

The committee therefore recommends that Government should do more mobilizations of Ugandans to tap into these potential and virgin markets now that DRC has joined the East African Community. The demographic dividend should spill over to Ugandans to access the huge markets and this requires strategy and commitment on the side of government to ensure that what is demanded can be produced in quantities expected.

Government of Uganda should also consider construction warehouses and cold rooms to facilitate Ugandan traders.

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DRC Missions should be considered for budgetary allocation and provision under Economic and Commercial Diplomacy program

There is need to streamline Ugandan policies for consistency and reliable supplies to the regional markets

Ugandan Banks should be facilitated to open up operations in DRC especially the Eastern side to facilitate Uganda traders and business community.

6.0 OPENING UP THE CONSULATE OF GOMA: OBSERVATIONS

The committee on was informed that Goma consulate was closed during the war and it has never been reopened. However since 2018, a number of meetings between the two countries have taken place and engagements at the Head of State level culminated into the acceptance of reopening of the Liaison office in 2020 under the administration of the former ambassador. This liaison office will be later be upgraded to a consulate when all the necessary processes are completed Consulate.

Rt . Hon Speaker, it was also established that Goma has a good and strategic location for Uganda and therefore a nonstop boarder point which required an upgrade to fully fledged consulate with an independent vote and its own budget and additional staff. Currently the Liaison Office is managed by only one technical staff yet the majority of Ugandans in the DRC are domiciled in Goma other Easter Parts of the country. This will enhance effective consular services and easy facilitation of Ugandan traders.

During the interaction, the committee was informed that Goma and other areas in Eastern Congo such as Bukavu,Lubumbashi require cold-rooms and warehouses since there is a ready market for beef, Milk, fish, cereals and Poultry products

These are key observations during the oversight visit.

- a) Currently there is only a Liaison office which handles all consular/ mission issues.

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- b) The office has no vote is an appendage of the Mission in Kinshasa and it's not financially independent and is awaiting a cabinet decision. The staffs of the liaison office cover a wider area which includes, Bukavu, Kisangani, Butebo.
- c) The delegation was informed that the Goma Consulate is of Strategic importance to Uganda especially the Eastern side of DRC and the resultant envisaged mutual projects in Eastern DRC. There are also other several engagements between Uganda and DRC, notably the road Infrastructure project, cooperation on security matters and the proposed electrification of the Eastern DRC Cities from Uganda. All these engagements make it eminent for Uganda to establish its consular presence in Goma.
- d) In addition, there is also urgent need to maximise trade and investment opportunities that Eastern DRC avails to Ugandan Business people. For example trade volumes between Uganda and DRC is at \$679 Million (UBOS, 2021) 90 % of which takes place in Eastern DRC.

The committee recommends that Goma should be upgraded from a liaison office to a fully-fledged consulate to handle both commercial and consulate issues. It is a of key strategic importance to Uganda's commercial interests. Uganda government has invested in road infrastructure to facilitate trade and the handling the security threats. The presence of a consulate will be key in achieving these objectives.

We recommend that the consulate in Goma should be fast tracked so that Ugandan can benefit from the trade in Eastern Congo and Ugandans served effectively with consular services.

The committee also recommends that the Commercial and economic diplomacy should be rolled out to other deserving Missions. There has been no addition to the original piloted Mission.

The mission should register and document all success stories of Ugandan business in DRC for the country to ascertain the value for money out of Uganda participation in peace building initiatives

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7.0 JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSIONS

The committee established that the Mission has a cooperation framework which concretized its existence and guides the activities through **Joint Permanent Commissions (JPCs)**. Uganda has had Joint permanent Commission with only DRC. Cooperation framework between countries is all presented in a JPC. The JPC between Uganda and DRC is done on rotational basis after every 2 years; the last one was in Kampala in 2018 however the proceeding one was interrupted by Covid 19. However there is no budgetary provision for this activity in this current financial year.

Under this cooperation there are 9 signed agreements and 10 are pending for signature. The Mission has a role to play in following up the pending agreements and also the level implementation, however due to a limited budget some follow-ups are not made.

Cooperation frameworks with DRC include;

- 1) Cooperation in Police matters
- 2) Cooperation in prisons and correction services
- 3) Cooperation in judicial matters
- 4) Cooperation in education matters
- 5) Cooperation in immigration matters
- a) **Cooperation in Economic, Finance, Infrastructure, Socio-cultural and education**

The issues discussed include;

- a) Cooperation in Management of Trans boundary Living Resources
- b) Cooperation in Hydrocarbons, Energy and Minerals
- c) Cooperation in Electric Power and Power sector
- d) Cooperation in mining sector
- e) Cooperation in Trade, Investment and Customs
- f) Cooperation in Infrastructure and Transport
- g) Cooperation in Railways
- h) Cooperation in Health

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b) Cooperation in political, defence and security matters

The issues discussed include;

- a) Security and Defence
- b) Repatriation of Refugees
- c) Border demarcation
- d) Cooperation in Police matters
- e) Cooperation in prisons and correction services
- f) Cooperation in judicial matters
- g) Cooperation in education matters
- h) Cooperation in immigration matters
- i) Cooperation in the Field of Military Intelligence
- j) Normalisation and Consolidation of Bilateral Relations

Rt. Hon Speaker, it is important to note that there is a pending JPC this FY2022/23 but no funds have been provided yet these JPCs are instrumental in hence cooperation between the states in the agreed areas. The JPC activity has a funding gap of Ushs. 1.240 billion.

The committee considers the JPCs as a key priority if Uganda is to benefit from having not only political and diplomatic ties but also on the economic front. We therefore recommend that Government considers funding this year's JPC since its Uganda to host as agreed (on the rotational basis).

The committee recommends that a total of Ushs, 1.240 billion should be provided as supplementary budget in FY2022/23 to cater for this activity.

There is need to follow up on the unsigned cooperation frameworks and document the level of implementation of the signed ones

7.0 CONSULAR SERVICES AND DIASPORA ENGAGEMENTS OF THE MISSION.

7.1 CONSULAR SERVICES AT THE MISSION

The committee was informed that the Mission handles; Political, economic and consular matters. The committee was taken through what the consular services the Mission does among others in Kinshasa;

- Registration of Ugandans and providing them with consular services

- Do document certification
- Issue emergency travel documents to stranded Ugandans
- Issue recommendation to Ugandans who need them
- Do Diaspora engagements through which experience is shared and celebration of national days

7.2 DIASPORA ISSUES

The delegation established that Uganda has a sizable Diaspora community in the DRC scattered all over the vast country. The mission has lays been helpful in mobilisation the Diaspora Community.

Rt . Hon Speaker, during the committee visits in DRC, the Mission organised a meeting where issues affecting the Ugandan residents in DRC were discussed. Most their challenges relate to;

- a) There is need for the Deployment of passport and National ID biometric capture machines so Ugandans need not to come back to Uganda for that service
- b) Harassment by security agencies and the community tormenting them because of resemblances to people from other neighbouring countries which have conflicts with DRC
- c) Viza problems and multiple payment for workers
- d) Lack of consular services in Goma where the majority of Ugandans have businesses
- e) Lack of national ID facilities at the Mission
- f) Inability to vote in National Elections as compared to Kenyans who vote at their Missions

8.0 OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO DRC MISSION THAT REQUIRE THE INTERVENTION OF PARLIAMENT

8.1 PRISONER EXCHANGES

The committee established that Uganda released Congolese prisoners over and 76 and over 264 Congolese boats in the name of peacefully settling of disputes between the 2 countries. Reciprocity was agreed upon however till to date Congolese government has never released any Ugandan prisoner.

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The Mission has had a series of meeting and negotiations that led to prisoner exchange. The Congolese prisoners were freed and handed over to DRC authorities. The same is expected as a reciprocal where DRC Congo authorities are expected to free Ugandans in Congo Prisons.

The Ministry of Foreign affairs is expected to request for a list of prisoners and inform parliament. Parliament can then ensure that this followed to a logical conclusion.

8.2 FLEET ISSUES

The Mission has only two Vehicles which are over seven years old. They are due to boarding off. The Ambassadors car is also old and does not represent the Image of the Country.

The committee is concerned that even the funds that were approved in the FY2022/23 budget for development which include funds for Missions were not released in the first quarter.

We recommend that all Development funds for Missions as approved in FY2022/23 Should Be Released in the Subsequent Quarters to Ensure Effective Operations of the Missions.

9.0 CONCLUSION


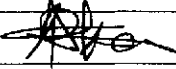



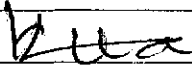


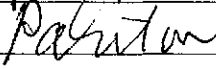

Rt. Hon. Speaker, we thank you and the Parliamentary Commission for availing funds to the Committee to enable it execute its oversight mandate. Indeed the visit to Kinshasa has enabled the committee not only to monitor government funds but also to explore the potential the DRC mission can offer in terms of economic and commercial diplomacy. Uganda has invested heavily in DRC maintaining Peace and Security and also in opening up roads and other infrastructures to facilitate trade.

In light of the committee findings Parliament should ensure that the Mission in Kinshasa is enlisted on those Mission that are funded for economic and commercial diplomacy.

I beg to submit

A collection of handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature at the top center, a signature in a circle to the right, and several other signatures and initials scattered below. The number '25' is written in the center of the page.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO CONSENTED TO THE REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE UGANDAN MISSION IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Bigirwa Norah Nyendwoha	
2.	Hon. Ninsiima Boaz Kasirabo	
3.	Hon. Achan Judith Peace	
4.	Hon. Akampurira Prossy Mbabazi	
5.	Hon. Akello Lucy	
6.	Hon. Atugonza Allan	
7.	Hon. Gen. Mbadi Mbasu Wilson	
8.	Hon. Hashim Sulaiman	
9.	Hon. Isamat Abraham	
10.	Hon. Katoto Mohamed	
11.	Hon. Kayogera Yona	
12.	Hon. Kinshaba Patience Nkunda	
13.	Hon. Kisa Stephen	
14.	Hon. Komakech Christopher	
15.	Hon. Lumu Richard Kizito	
16.	Hon. Maneno Zumura	
17.	Hon. Muheesi Jenipher Abaaho	
18.	Hon. Mutebi Noah Wanzala	
19.	Hon. Mutono Patrick Lodoi	
20.	Hon. Nkunyingi Muwada	
21.	Hon. Obong Vincent Shedrick	
22.	Hon. Ocen Peter	
23.	Hon. Okae Bob	
24.	Hon. Okin P. P. Ojara	
25.	Hon. Okot Boniface	
26.	Hon. Okot Ogong Felix	
27.	Hon. Olobo James	
28.	Hon. Opolot Fred	
29.	Hon. Sserubula Stephen	
30.	Hon. Ssewanyana Allan	