



OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY &  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS

# KENYA DIASPORA POLICY 2024



## Foreword



The finalization of the Diaspora Policy 2024 marks a milestone achievement for our nation in renewing our commitment to protecting, promoting and engaging our diaspora in the nation building processes. The policy bears in mind the existence of a diaspora policy 2014 and rekindles the duty that we have as a nation to prioritize service delivery to all Kenyans, despite their location across the globe.

The Diaspora Policy 2024 underscores the Government's commitment to understanding and addressing the challenges that Kenyans living abroad encounter on a day-to-day basis. Through this policy, the Kenyan government has a goal of protecting, engaging, empowering and prospering the Kenyan diaspora. The goal is emphasized in the policy statements therein, centering on: diaspora rights, welfare and interests; diaspora savings, investments, remittances and technology transfer; diaspora partnerships and engagement; and international job placements for Kenyans.

This publication recognizes the invaluable contribution of the over three (3) million Kenyans in the diaspora to the socio-economic development of the country. Therefore, it serves as a call to action to all government institutions in safeguarding the rights, welfare, and interests of the Kenyan diaspora, ensuring their active participation in national development efforts while providing them with policies and initiatives to facilitate the growth of our nation.

The successful actualization of the policy calls for a coherent and cross-sectoral approach and a coordinated response across all levels of government, private sector and other non-state actors. Towards this end, all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and organs whose functions and responsibilities in one way or another impact on the Kenyan diaspora are expected to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to make this policy a reality.

Finally, in publishing this policy the Government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protect, engage, empower and prosper Kenyans living in the diaspora. The policy also ensures that necessary resources are put in place to effectively promote the interests of Kenya's nationals in all foreign jurisdictions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Musalia Mudavadi'.

**Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H.**  
**Prime Cabinet Secretary and**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs**

## Preface

It is with great honor that I welcome you to the Diaspora Policy 2024. The policy outlines the goals and objectives that will guide efforts towards protecting, engaging, empowering and prospering Kenyans living in the diaspora going forward. We are excited to share this policy that reflects our commitment to embracing Kenyans living in the diaspora in the development of our nation.



The policy statements outline our ambition to protect, engage, empower and prosper the Kenyan diaspora. It is guided by four objectives, namely: to protect the rights and promote the welfare and interest of the Kenyan diaspora; facilitate Diaspora Savings, Investments, remittances and technology transfer; strengthen partnership and collaboration with the Kenyan diaspora; and Facilitate placement of Kenyans in the international jobs market. In this regard, Kenya will continue to incorporate the diaspora in public participation and further enact policies and regulations that mainstream them into national development. We invite you to delve into the pages of this document to gain a deeper understanding of our policy direction.

As we embark on this exciting journey, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the development and subsequent finalization of the policy in one way or the other. I would like to sincerely commend the staff at the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, who dedicated their time towards finalization of this policy. I further acknowledge the input of the various players, including the diaspora, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, professionals, other stakeholders and the general public for their invaluable input towards its finalization. Your contributions helped in shaping the Diaspora Policy 2024.

Thank you very much.

**Roseline Kathure Njogu, CBS**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**



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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background information

The concept of diaspora is closely tied to human migration and is not new to humanity. People have been migrating since time immemorial for trade, employment and relocations to preferred localities and or as a result of wars and other human calamities.

According to the World Migration Report 2024, the global international migrants were 281 million in 2023 representing 3.6% of the world population, with 169 million being migrant workers across the world. International migration mainly flows from developing countries to large economies where America, Europe and Asia continents received the highest number of migrant workers of 102.4 million while Africa received 10% of the total international migrants in 2023. In 2023, around 21 million Africans were living in another African country, a significant increase from 18 million Africans in 2015. The number of Africans living in different regions also grew during the same period, from around 17 million in 2015 to over 19.5 million in 2023. However, these figures are likely to be higher given that many migrants are not included in this figure due to inaccuracy of data. Migratory patterns are influenced by globalization, geo-political dynamics, the domestic environment of the country among other drivers.

Over the years, Kenyans have been migrating in large numbers to different parts of the world for advanced training, education, job opportunities and political reasons, among others. To date, more Kenyans continue to migrate in search of better economic opportunities due to both pull and push factors locally and abroad. The Kenyan diaspora is estimated at four million as at 2023 and continues to increase exponentially.

The diaspora is recognized in the realm of international foreign policy as a catalyst of social and economic development in countries of origin, besides their active role in the host countries. Diaspora support to local communities in their countries of origin has led to improved welfare and economic status of the communities for social development. For instance, remittances progressively increased from USD 1,170 million (KShs.100 billion) in 2012 to USD 4,190 Million (KShs.671 billion) in 2023, according to the Central Bank of Kenya.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations recognizes the rights and privileges of the diaspora and acknowledges that consular relations have been in existence since ancient times. The Convention governs the friendly relations among nations with respect to nationals and interests of the States. Article 5 of the Convention is specific on the services that can be enjoyed by a person (national) in both the sending State (country of origin) and the receiving State (destination or country of residence). It is the guarantor of the protection of the rights and welfare of the diaspora, within the laws of the receiving State, other negotiated bilateral instruments, and or existing international frameworks to which both parties are signatories.

At the national level, the Constitution of Kenya recognizes the rights of Kenyan citizens living abroad. The Constitution provides for national values and principles of governance which include human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights and sustainable

development among others. In line with the Constitutional provisions, the Government has prioritized championing the rights and welfare of Kenyans in the diaspora and mainstreaming them in the national development process.

The term diaspora comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "to scatter about." And that's exactly what the people of a diaspora do — they scatter from their homeland to places across the globe, spreading their culture and influence wherever they go. The notion of diaspora however, should be distinguished with other phenomenon of migration, as the importance of the ties between members of the Diasporas and their country of origin is prevalent.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines diaspora as members of ethnic and national communities who have left, but maintain links with their homelands. On the other hand, the African Union defines the African Diaspora as, “Consisting of people of African origin living outside the continent irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union”. The Diaspora Policy (2014) defined diaspora as ‘Persons of Kenyan Origin (PKO) and Non-Resident Kenyans (NRKs). PKOs status designates foreign citizens of Kenyan origin or descent. On the other hand, NRKs status is for Kenyans holding a Kenyan passport and/or having dual citizenship and residing outside the country, whether for employment, business, vocation, education or any other purpose.” This Policy adopts the latter definition of the Diaspora.

The Government of Kenya is cognizant of the significant role that the diaspora plays in the socio-economic growth and development of the economy through various contributions such as diaspora remittances, skills, expertise, knowledge and technology transfer, have prompted the need to comprehensively align the Diaspora Policy.

## **1.2 Policy Environment**

The Diaspora Policy is prepared in the backdrop of the various global and regional instruments, as well as national policies, and laws. The Policy will be informed by both domestic and external factors.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018)**

Kenya is a signatory to the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration popularly known as the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) which is a non-binding framework that aims to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, while reducing the incidence and negative impact of irregular migration through international cooperation. Objective 19 of the GCM advocates for creating conditions for migrants and diaspora to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries. In November 2023, the Government of Kenya launched the first National Implementation Plan for the GCM 2023 - 2027 to guide the government and its stakeholders to implement the GCM agenda. Among other priorities, the implementation plan aimed to increase diaspora engagement in development, by initiating a skills mapping survey of the diaspora in destination countries.

## **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Diaspora Policy aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognizes the role of diaspora in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government enhances mobilization and transfer of skills, knowledge and resources of the Kenyan diaspora, to support the country's economic, social, and political development in line with the SDGs. Further, SDG Target 10.c advocates for the reduction of the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent and elimination of corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030. The Government is working with different stakeholders to achieve low remittance costs and hence increase diaspora investments while enhancing the welfare of recipients. The Government has also instituted policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

## **CONTINENTAL**

The African Union (AU) acknowledges the role played by the Diaspora in development thus recognizing the African Diaspora as the sixth region of the continent. Under the African Union Constitutive (Amendment) Act of 2003, the AU invites the diaspora to partner with the organization in developing the continent.

## **African Union Agenda 2063**

The African Union Agenda 2063 recognizes active engagement of the Diaspora as a key driver of change for Africa's development. The Diaspora has the potential to contribute towards strengthening African economic independence through investment, expertise and general political, cultural and social solidarity. The agenda envisages that the diaspora will be integrated into the democratic processes of all African nations by 2030 and that dual citizenship will be the standard for all member states by 2025.

## **REGIONAL**

### **East African Community**

Diaspora engagement is a key priority for the EAC, as it provides an opportunity to leverage the skills, knowledge, and resources of the diaspora to support economic development, social welfare, and regional integration.

The EAC Vision 2050 focuses on initiatives that will create gainful employment to the economically active population to contribute to the growth and development of the region. The pillars of Vision 2050 further offer opportunities for job creation, which are important to absorb EAC's growing labour force and unemployment problem. Long-term job creation requires skills development that is consistent with the emerging development opportunities in infrastructure development; industrialization and manufacturing; value addition in agriculture industry; facilitating the export of labour and management of human capital development.

The EAC Diaspora Engagement Policy provides a policy framework for engagement of the diaspora into the development of EAC. The EAC Diaspora Desk is expected to facilitate dialogue



between EAC and its diaspora community, provide a platform for networking and business opportunities, international trade, and support diaspora-led development projects in the region.

### **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Migration Policy Framework (2012)**

The regional framework guides Member States to identify critical migration issues that impact their respective states and the region. Guided by the 2006 African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa (Revised in 2018), the regional framework recognizes the contribution of diaspora in development especially in terms of remittances. IGAD Member States are working towards harmonizing remittance policies to address the cost of remitting to, from and within the region. The framework also highlights the potential impact of brain drain, brain circulation, brain waste and brain gain at national and regional level. IGAD Member States are committed to address the concerns of their diaspora by strengthening collaboration with the diaspora from the region on socio-economic and development issues among others.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Constitution of Kenya**

The Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024 is aligned to the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which recognizes the rights of Kenyan citizens living abroad. The Constitution provides for national values and principles of governance which include human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights and sustainable development among others. In line with the Constitution, the Government has prioritized championing the rights and welfare of Kenyans living abroad and mainstreaming them into the national development process.

In addition, the Constitution provides for access to information required for protection of any right or fundamental freedom. Currently, platforms through which the diaspora can access fundamental information are fragmented. The Government is, therefore, committed to ensuring that critical information for the wellbeing of Kenyan diaspora is consolidated and available, especially on areas such as welfare, skills and technology transfers and remittances among others.

### **Kenya Vision 2030**

The Kenya Vision 2030 recognizes the diaspora as an important stakeholder in achieving the nation's economic, social, and political goals. The Vision 2030 framework includes strategies to leverage the skills, resources, and networks of the diaspora to drive sustainable development and propel Kenya towards becoming a middle-income economy by the year 2030.

The Vision seeks to promote a more diverse and inclusive society and engagement with the diaspora as an important part of achieving this aim. The Vision has initiatives to address the challenges that the diaspora faces and to foster diaspora engagement in Governance and investment. The Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023-2027) of the Vision 2030 highlights three key priorities for the diaspora namely welfare and rights, diaspora service delivery and remittances.

### **Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda**



The Government Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) recognizes the diaspora as a valuable resource that contributes significantly to the country's socio-economic development. In this regard, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs was established and mandated to promote, engage, empower and prosper the diaspora. The Department pursues three (3) of the BETA objectives namely; creating jobs, improving our foreign exchange balance and inclusive growth through international jobs placement. This Policy therefore aligns with strategic agenda of the Government that include diaspora service delivery, protection of rights and promotion of welfare as well as harnessing opportunities to grow diaspora remittances.

The implementation of the Government agenda in the Policy is through continuous dialogue and engagement to promote the welfare of Kenyans and protect their rights while they are abroad. The Diaspora Offices, Diaspora Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS) and the 24hr diaspora response center are some of the tools that foster service delivery to the diaspora. In addition, implementation of this Policy will continue to facilitate international job placements for Kenyans, reduce remittance costs and increase investments inflow into the country. Further, the policy provides a framework for the Government to leverage on the skills, knowledge and technology transfer and expertise, and financial resources of the Kenyan diaspora to support national development.

### **Kenya Foreign Policy**

Kenya's Foreign Policy aims to achieve several national objectives, *inter alia* to promote the interests of Kenyan Diaspora and partnership with the Kenyans abroad. The Diaspora Diplomacy pillar in the Foreign Policy focuses on engaging and involving Kenyan citizens living abroad in the development and growth of the country. The Government recognizes the important contribution of the diaspora through investment, remittances, knowledge transfer, and skills development. The objectives of the pillar include facilitating Kenyan diaspora participation in national development, facilitating efficient and prompt provision of consular services, and encouraging Kenyans to enter the global labour market.

### **Foreign Service Act, 2021**

The Foreign Service Act, 2021 outlines the responsibility of the Government to provide consular services; coordinate relevant agencies in emergency evacuation of distressed Kenyans abroad; and serve and promote the legitimate interests of Kenyans living abroad. Through its Diplomatic Missions, the Government continues to strengthen relationships with the diaspora, provide support and services to the diaspora, and promote their participation in national development.

### **Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011**

The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011 outlines provisions relating to citizenship; issuance of travel documents; immigration and connected purposes. The Act provides for dual citizenship, allowing Kenyan diaspora to hold citizenship in another country while retaining their Kenyan citizenship.

## **The Public-Private Partnership Act, 2021**

The Public-Private Partnership Act, 2021 provides a legal framework for collaboration between the public and private sector for development projects. The Diaspora can participate in such partnerships by investing in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other sectors.

## **Labour Migration Policy**

The Government of Kenya has developed a Labour Migration Policy aimed at creating safer pathways for migration in an orderly manner for its citizens. The Policy caters for the rights and welfare of Kenyans abroad.

Kenya National Qualifications Framework and the Recognition of Prior Learning will guide the assessment of qualifications and experiences acquired abroad. The Diaspora Policy will explore pathways or initiatives that ease transition into the job market for Kenyan diasporas working in different sectors.

### **1.3 Strategic Positioning**

The Kenya Vision 2030 recognizes diaspora contribution as a critical component to the growth of the economy and in achieving the vision of making Kenya a globally competitive and prosperous country by the year 2030. In recognition of this, development of a Diaspora Policy and Bill was identified as one of the Kenya Vision 2030 flagship projects. The role of the diaspora in the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030 is recognized especially in driving investments in the priority sectors of the economy such as education, financial services, health, housing, ICT enabled services, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), manufacturing and tourism.

Given the limited job opportunities within the country, it becomes crucial for the country to strategically plan for the mobility of its labour force. To support this initiative, it is essential to establish a regulatory framework aimed at safeguarding the Kenyan diaspora. Such measures will not only protect the workforce but also contribute significantly to foreign exchange for the country.

### **1.4 Policy Goals and Objectives**

#### **1.4.1 Policy Goal**

An empowered and prosperous Diaspora that contributes to Kenya's development agenda.

#### **1.4.2 Policy Objectives**

The objectives of the Policy are to:

1. Protect the rights and promote the welfare and interest of the Kenyan diaspora
2. Facilitate Diaspora Savings, Investments, remittances and technology transfer;
3. Strengthen partnership and collaboration with the Kenyan diaspora; and
4. Facilitate placement of Kenyans in the international jobs market.

## 1.5 Rationale

The Constitution of Kenya recognizes and protects human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Kenyans, including the diaspora. Thus, the Government recognizes the potential of the diaspora in contributing to national development and acknowledges the diaspora as an integral part of the country's socioeconomic fabric. Consequently, the Government developed the Diaspora Policy (2014) to mainstream and empower Kenyans abroad to effectively make a significant contribution to the development of the country. The main thrust of the Policy was to harness and maximize the potential of Kenyans abroad to contribute to Kenya's transformation agenda while at the same time meeting their needs and expectations through a mutually beneficial and lasting partnership.

Since then, much has changed in the Kenyan diaspora community. Specifically, the number and composition of the diaspora has increased significantly. The number of diaspora has grown threefold to an estimated three (3) million in 2022 (IOM, 2022), comprising first, second and third generation migrants. These changes in the composition of diaspora have resulted in a community with new and divergent demands including welfare and mental health challenges, thereby requiring greater focus on the rights and wellbeing of the diaspora, together with innovations in service delivery to meet their needs. In tandem, remittances have grown from approximately USUSD 1.17 billion in 2012 to USD 4.19 billion in 2023 (CBK, 2023).

Several legislative changes have also occurred in the intervening period, notably, adoption of a new Foreign Service Act in 2021 with increased focus on strengthening relationships with the diaspora and providing support and services to Kenyan citizens abroad. Further, emerging issues including feminization of migration, evolving global conflicts and insecurity, a bulge in young migrants with the threat of human trafficking, and the use of labor migration as a cover for transboundary crime, such as money laundering and the financing of terrorism activities dictate reforms to the management of the diaspora.

Given this evolving landscape, the Government commenced a review to the Diaspora Policy (2014) with a view to adapting to the changing dynamics. The aim is to put in place the requisite legal and institutional framework that will address emerging issues and past weaknesses that have impeded service delivery to the diaspora and hence, their full participation and contribution to the development of the country.

## 1.6 Process and Scope

The Diaspora Policy 2024, was developed through a participatory and consultative approach within the context of constitutional requirement of public participation, and it involved key stakeholders in Kenya and in the diaspora. In the diaspora views were solicited through interviews using questionnaires relayed via Diaspora leaders, Diaspora Associations and Kenyan Missions abroad. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) also organized webinars for the Diaspora and other stakeholders which were held according to regions: The Americas; Europe, Middle East and Africa; Australia and East Asia.





Diaspora Affairs PS, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, CBS, pose for a photo with a multi-stakeholder team during one of the Diaspora Policy validation exercise in Naivasha in July 2024. The team was drawn from state and Non-State Actors.

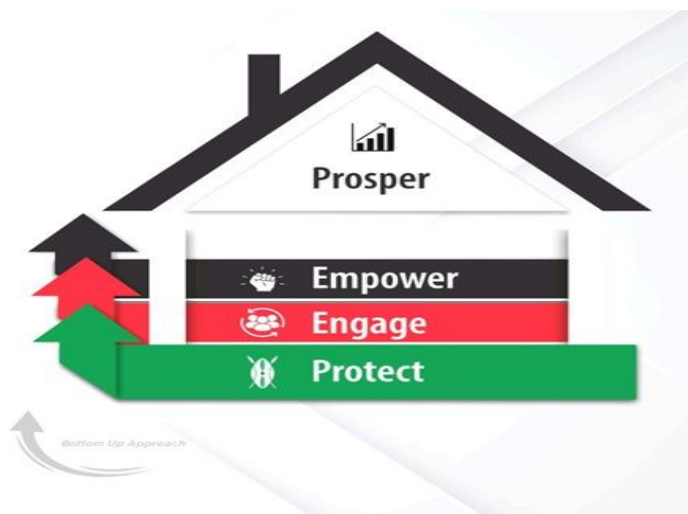
Further, stakeholder workshops (virtual and in person) were held with participants drawn from the Government, private recruitment agencies, private sector, non – state actors, development partners and diaspora returnees to identify gaps and recommend issues of interest to be addressed by the policy. Views obtained from the engagements were incorporated in this Diaspora Policy.



@Diaspora\_KE, @IOMKenya and key stakeholders during a workshop to review the Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) on 5th March 2024 at Enashipai

This policy, therefore, is the blueprint for diaspora engagement and applies to the Kenya Diaspora, the Government, Private Recruitment Agencies, the Private Sector and Development Partners.

## 1.7 Conceptual Framework



The Policy's conceptual framework is anchored on the basis of protecting, engaging and empowering Kenyans in the diaspora to realize prosperity of the Nation.

### **Protect**

The Government recognizes the presence of over three (3) million Kenyans in the diaspora in search of diverse opportunities available abroad opportunities. The diaspora faces a number of challenges including mental health concerns, labor disputes and

consular issues among others. As such, the Government is keen to promote the placement of secure labor among Kenyans abroad. The Policy offers a framework for the government to intervene and champion the protection of rights and promotion of the welfare and interest of Kenyan across the globe. Further, the policy steps in to outline a collaborative approach with key players in the industry, especially the ministry responsible labor among other actors to achieve the full potential of the diaspora workforce.

### **Engage**

The government is proactively engaging the diaspora in all parts of the globe to remain in touch with their cultural heritage and ensure patriotism. The government is continually engaging the diaspora, a critical approach in mainstreaming their involvement in the national development process through public participation. In collaboration with other stakeholders such as the IEBC, the government is engaging the Kenyans living abroad to participate in electoral processes. The policy therefore details various approaches to achieve holistic engagement of the diaspora, that builds trust in government service delivery and inclusion in the development agenda.

### **Empower**

Kenyans in the diaspora have immense potential that can be realized through the support of the government in taking advantage of the competitiveness presented in the global market. Immense opportunities are available for Kenyans abroad where the government is keen to support the diaspora in harnessing such opportunities for employment and enterprise development. With the growth of the Kenyans in the diaspora, Kenya has seen growth in remittances to become one of the top foreign exchange earners. Therefore, the policy seeks to foster development of incentives framework for diaspora remittances that go into consumption and the development of various economic sectors.



## Prosper

In protecting, engaging and empowering the diaspora, Kenya is working towards prosperity in line with its Vision 2030 of a globally competitive and prosperous country by the year 2030. The government recognizes the critical role that the Kenyan diaspora plays in the national development process through remittances, technology transfers and foreign direct investments. Diaspora remittances are showing positive growth, making major contributions to the Gross Domestic Product. The Labor Migration Policy and the Global Labor Strategy form critical instruments to facilitate the prosperity of the Kenyan Diaspora as well as enhance the global competitiveness.



## CHAPTER TWO: SITUATION ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter entails a situation analysis on the current status, review of trends and the patterns observed across the Diaspora. The section further looks into the policy and Legal Environment as well as achievements. The policy and legal environment focus on the global, regional and the national level, the achievements, gaps/challenges, lessons learnt and the potential areas in which the policy plugs in.

### 2.2 Global, Regional and National Trends

#### 2.2.1 Global Trends

Over time, the world has seen growth in international migration for economic, social, political and security reasons among others. According to the World Migration Report (2024), the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past 50 years. In 2023, almost 281 million people lived in a country other than their country of birth as compared to about 153 million in 1990, and 84 million in 1970. Since 1990, the share of international migrants aged 19 and younger has dropped from 18.9 percent to 14.6 percent, while international migrants older than 64 have remained steady at around 12.2 per cent. The share of female migrants has been decreasing since 2000, while the share of male migrants has increased by 1.4 percentage points. There is currently a larger number of male than female international migrants worldwide, and the gap has increased over the past 20 years. In 2000, the male to female split was 50.6 to 49.4 per cent (or 88 million male migrants and 86 million female migrants). In 2020 the split was 51.9 to 48 per cent, with 146 million male migrants and 135 million female migrants. The share of female migrants has been decreasing since 2000, while the share of male migrants has increased by 1.3 percentage points (World Migration Report 2024).

The United States of America remains the primary destination for migrants, at over 51 million international migrants while Germany is second with about 16 million international migrants. Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom round out the top five destination countries with about 13 million, 12 million and 9 million international migrants respectively. India has the largest Diaspora population in the world with nearly 18 million people living abroad. Mexico is the second most significant origin country at around 11 million followed by the Russian Federation and China at 10.8 million and 10 million respectively. The fifth most significant origin country is the Syrian Arab Republic, with over 8 million people living abroad. Most international migrants (around 78%) are of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age). (World Migration Report 2022).

Globally countries such as China, India, Mexico, Philippines and Israel have significantly benefited by capitalizing on their links with their Diaspora. Other countries have also initiated measures to design policies and legislation to create an enabling environment for the Diaspora to participate fully and contribute to the development of their countries especially through remittances. According to the World Bank, remittances to developing countries are three times the Official Development Assistance. The remittances are to be about \$406 Billion (World Bank, 2023). The World Bank estimates that remittances sent through informal channels could add up

to at least 50 % of the official estimate, making it the largest source of external capital in many developing countries.

The United States is the largest source of remittances, while on the other hand, top five remittance recipient countries in 2023 are India (USD 125 billion), Mexico (US D67 billion), China (USD 50 billion), the Philippines (USD 40 billion), and Egypt (USD 24 billion). (World bank, 2023).

### **2.2.2 Continental and Regional Trends**

Migration in Africa involves large numbers of international migrants moving both within and out of the region. In 2022, approximately 21 million Africans were living in another African country, a significant increase from 2015, when approximately 18 million Africans were estimated to be living within the region. The number of Africans living out of the continent also grew during the same period, from 17 million in 2015 to over 19.5 million in 2020. The number of African migrants living outside of the region has more than doubled, with the growth in Europe being the most pronounced. In 2022, most African-born migrants living outside the region were residing in Europe (11 million), Asia (5 million) and North America (3 million). World Migration Report 2024.

North Africa receives some of the largest international remittances globally, driven by the subregion's significant emigrant population. Emigration, particularly from Maghreb countries such as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, has long been a feature in North Africa. Other countries in the subregion, including Egypt, also have large emigrant populations, with Europe and Asia being the two major destinations for migrants from North Africa. Conversely, North America and Europe have been the major destinations for emigrants from East African countries such as Kenya. Gulf States have also become a major destination for a growing number of Ugandan, Kenyan and Ethiopian migrant workers. Other countries in the subregion with significant numbers of their populations living abroad include Somalia and Uganda. South Africa is also a major destination for many migrants from the subregion (IOM, 2022).

In Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana and Kenya were the top five international remittance recipient countries in Africa in 2023. Kenya ranked third among the 5 highest recipients of remittance inflows in Africa for 2022 according to remittance report by World Bank. This includes Nigeria at USD20.94 Billion, Ghana: USD4.66 Billion, Kenya: USD4.19 Billion, and Senegal USD2.71 Billion (World Bank 2023).

### **2.2.3 National Trends**

Kenya has a large and diverse diaspora community that spans the globe. According to the International Organization for Migration, World Migration Report 2022, the estimated population of Kenyans living in diaspora is over four (4) million. This number continues to rise as more Kenyans travel outside the country in search of education, training, employment, health, economic opportunities, among other reasons.

In 2021, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), conducted the first ever Diaspora Remittances Survey to determine the average cost of sending funds to Kenya. The survey revealed that the cost was in the range of 4 to 5 percent of the amount sent. Additionally, the cost was relatively higher

for the Europe-Kenya and Asia-Kenya remittance corridors averaging 6 percent of the amount remitted. This is still off the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10(c) target of reduction to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%.

America is the largest source continent of remittances to Kenya accounting for 58 percent of total remittances. In 2023, the Central Bank of Kenya reported that remittance inflows from Kenyans living abroad reached a record high of USD 4.19 billion, marking a 4.0 percent increase from the previous year's US USD 4.028 billion. (CBK, 2023).

### **2.2.3.1 Profile of Kenyan Diaspora**

Kenyans have migrated over the years across the globe and can be found virtually in every country of the World. They have migrated as migrant workers, entrepreneurs, students, and for other diverse reasons.

Kenyan labour migrants, both skilled and semi-skilled, move for employment opportunities abroad. Skilled workers often seek jobs in sectors such as healthcare, information technology, engineering, and finance, and semi-skilled labour migrants have been found to work in construction, agriculture, hospitality, and domestic service. However, some labour migrants deskill in order to gain access to employment opportunities in destination countries. In order to increase the labour export and at the same time protect their welfare, the government is negotiating Bilateral Labour Agreements with labour destination countries to streamline the labour export sector.

Kenyan diaspora also engages as entrepreneurs and investors who have established businesses or invest in ventures abroad and in the country of origin. They seek opportunities in sectors such as real estate, hospitality, agriculture, technology, and trade among others.

Kenyan students form a substantial portion of the international student population in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and others. They pursue undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate degrees in various fields including Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, business, humanities, and social sciences.

Family reunification is a common motive for migration among Kenyans. Individuals may join family members who have already migrated for work, education, or other reasons, or they may seek to reunite with spouses, children, or other relatives living abroad. Kenyan retirees may choose to migrate to other countries for retirement, seeking better healthcare, a higher standard of living, or a more relaxed lifestyle.

There is also evidence of Kenyans who are trafficked under the guise of job opportunities in destination countries. Separately, there are others who are in custody or jails abroad after falling foul of the law in host countries. While some migrated abroad due to political reasons, sought asylum and are now domiciled in those countries. This special category of the Diaspora is normally in a precarious situation which necessitates provision of consular services to facilitate their return to the country.





Diaspora Affairs PS, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu poses for a photo with a section of the Kenyan Diaspora in Toronto, Canada during a Diaspora Engagement in October 2023. The PS was accompanied by Kenya's High Commission to Canada staff led by Amb. Immaculate Wambua.

### 2.2.3.2 Diaspora Generations

The Kenyan Diaspora is fairly young, tracing back to the First World War (WWI) when some Africans were forcefully conscripted in the military to fight alongside the British Army in places such as Burma. The nascent Kenyan diaspora can also be traced to missionary works in the 1st quarter of 1900s and mid 1900's when the Government embarked on a deliberate policy of "Kenyanisation" of the Civil service through capacity building programmes abroad, under late President JF Kennedy's scholarship programme, popularly known as the JF Kennedy/Tom Mboya's Airlift. In addition, parallels can be drawn to a similar programme under the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga's East Europe Scholarships. A section of the beneficiaries of these programmes either failed to come back, or quickly resigned and returned abroad upon completion, acquiring citizenship and taking their families along.

Over the years, Kenyans have continued to move abroad during the period categorized as the pre and post democratization era. In pre-democratization, the major push and pull factors were education and political reasons. The post democratization era saw Kenyans move abroad in search for education, better economic prospects, trade, health and Leisure.



His Excellency President William Ruto, Ph.D lifts a child during a diaspora engagement in Germany. Diaspora engagements is focal to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs as part of the continuous dialogue to mainstream the Kenyan Diaspora to national development.

## 2.3 Progress Analysis

### 2.3.1 Achievements

The broad objective of the National Diaspora Policy 2014 was to mainstream and empower Kenyans abroad to effectively make a significant contribution to the development of the country. The following are the Diaspora Policy 2014 commitments and achievements realized:

First, the recognition of the Diaspora Diplomacy as one of the five pillars of Kenya's Foreign Policy was a milestone policy statement in the Government's effort to integrate Kenyans abroad into national development. However, the greatest achievement was realized when through the Presidential Executive Order No. 1 of 2023, the Government established a full-fledged State Department for Diaspora Affairs.

Second, in implementing the Diaspora Policy, the government promoted continuous dialogue with Kenyans Abroad, strategically engaging them through high level visits as well as conferences, town hall meetings and side events. The engagements aimed at bringing the diaspora together for networking and sharing of available opportunities, championing and protecting their rights and welfare, and harnessing investments and remittances. As a result, several Diaspora Associations for structured engagement with Diaspora and Diaspora SACCOs as vehicles for investments were formed.



Third, the capacity to offer Consular Services was enhanced in all Kenya Missions abroad and specific diplomats in Missions assigned to offer the services. In addition, Honorary Consuls were appointed to augment provision of consular services in regions with high population of the Diaspora and far from the Missions.

Fourth, Provision of Mobile Consular Services to Kenyans living abroad. This programme enabled decentralization of Government of services in cities with high concentration of Kenyans globally, especially in countries and regions where Kenya has diplomatic presence. Kenyans living in these regions were facilitated with identity cards, passports, birth certificates, police clearance, application for citizenships, document attestation, declaration of dual citizenship and emergency travel certificates. The programme helped to enhance diaspora trust and confidence and strengthened partnerships with Government.

Fifth, significant steps by the government were taken to enhance the mechanisms for protecting Kenyans abroad through the signing of Bilateral Labour Agreements/MoUs with specific migrant workers' destination countries. These instruments were also signed with countries that have employment opportunities for migrant workers.

Sixth, the Government evacuated distressed Kenyans from regions with political crisis, victims of human trafficking and other Kenyans on medical grounds. The government also repatriated distressed Kenyans and remains of the deceased.

Seventh, the government held consultations with financial institutions to eliminate bottlenecks on remittances and facilitate development of diaspora facing investment products e.g. Dhow CSD. Kenya is realizing a continuous growth in remittances through government interventions that continuously reduce remittance costs. This would contribute to the development of an incentive framework to promote diaspora participation in national development:

Eighth, about 14,000 government services have been digitized through leveraging on the use of Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T) in the E-Citizen platform, including nine (9) diaspora centered services such as registration of Kenyans in the diaspora, reporting of diaspora in conflict with the law, reporting of missing persons, counselling services and registration of diaspora associations among others.

Ninth, steps were taken to harmonize and conduct pre-departure training for Kenyan migrant workers aimed at facilitating the smooth settlement and integration of all migrants. As of June 2022, the Government facilitated more than 200,000 Kenyans with pre-departure training for the labour markets. This was achieved through the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

Finally, the Government is gradually promoting participation in democratic processes by Kenyans Abroad, through sensitization fora, voter registration exercises and voting. This initiative saw an increase in the number of voting stations and registered voters in the diaspora from four (4) countries namely Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi where 4,223 voters voted in 2017, to twelve (12) countries namely Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa, South Sudan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and the United States where 10,444 voters voted in 2022.



### 2.3.2 Challenges

Despite the achievements mentioned earlier, there were a few bottlenecks identified in the process of implementing the Diaspora Policy 2014.

1. Non – registration by Kenyans abroad with the Kenya Diplomatic Missions abroad attributed to government mistrust has hampered their protection and these further constrain effective delivery of consular services. However, this could be seen as due to mistrust between the embassies and Diaspora and lack of proper diaspora engagement
2. Fragmented data on Kenyan diaspora: Sourcing and management of data on Kenyans abroad has been a challenge characterized by fragmented and uncoordinated data from different government ministries, departments and agencies. This undermines effective planning, engagement and support for Kenyans in the diaspora;
3. Low awareness on available investment opportunities in Kenya due to weak structures and inadequate coordination among Kenyans Abroad;
4. Inadequate incentive framework for remittances and diaspora investments;
5. Weak structures and uncoordinated mechanisms to create awareness for Kenyans abroad on the investment opportunities available in different sectors of the economy is also another challenge, coupled with lack of incentive framework to promote Diaspora investments;
6. High remittance costs estimated at 6.20 percent of the amount sent;
7. Inadequate human resource capacity in the Kenya Missions abroad to offer effective and efficient consular services, especially in areas with high concentration of Kenyans;
8. Slow uptake of Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) resulting in underutilization of online services and making it difficult to provide effective and efficient services to Kenyans abroad. This has resulted in underutilization of online services;
9. Inadequate labor migration and legal framework: The Government has a constitutional responsibility to protect its citizens and their property both within and outside the country. However, some Kenyans working abroad, both skilled and unskilled, are exposed to unsuitable working conditions attributed to inadequate national labour migration legal framework;
10. Inadequate frameworks for portability of social benefits: Kenyans abroad contribute to various social security services in their countries of residence. On termination of their services, there are no bilateral agreements or formal framework to facilitate transferability and portability of Social Security Benefits to Kenya. In addition, there is need to ensure full integration of returnees into society;
11. Increased mental related issues among the diaspora: Mental health issues are increasing among Kenyans in the diaspora due to culture shock, poor working/living conditions, discrimination and loss of livelihoods;

12. Lack of a mutual recognition of academic and professional qualification certificates: Some countries do not recognize Kenyan certificates, thus curtailing the employment of Kenyans abroad;
13. Contract substitution: Migrant workers especially the youth at times sign contracts with local recruiting agents before departure but upon arrival in the country of destination, they are forced to sign new contracts drawn in foreign languages they do not comprehend which leaves them vulnerable to exploitation; and
14. Integration of Diaspora returnees face challenges occasioned by bottlenecks of Association Rules that discriminate against professional returnees, examples of such rules are those imposed by various licensing Association such as the Kenya Engineering License Board and others that frustrate the returnees from practicing their trade, while their counterparts from similar institutions abroad, are hired at exorbitant salaries as “Expatriates”

### **2.3.3 Lessons Learnt**

During implementation of the Diaspora Policy 2014, the following lessons were learnt:

1. The protection of the rights and enhancing of the welfare of the Diaspora is critical to the wellbeing of the Kenyan diaspora abroad.
2. An integrated data management system is imperative in order to enhance service delivery to Kenyans in the diaspora;
3. Reviewing existing Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs)/MoUs and signing new instruments with foreign governments are effective measures to protect Kenyan nationals seeking employment abroad;
4. Designation of an interlocutor for IEBC’s engagements with the Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Kenya Missions abroad, and foreign Missions in Kenya is key in facilitating election preparedness for Kenyans in the diaspora. There is need for Electoral reforms for Diaspora Voting to consider issues like period of voting, gazetted polling stations, and use of electronic equipment or platforms to allow more Kenyans abroad to participate at the elections. Participation in political process should be open to dual citizens, like in UK, only the Executive Position should be exempt from vying as a dual national.
5. There is need to address the high transaction costs of remittances, which is currently at an average of 6% (AIR, 2023) and reduce to 3% or less by 2030 as per SDG 10(c);
6. Hosting of webinars on various topical issues is a critical means of reaching the diaspora and soliciting their views to inform the national development discourse; and
7. The presence of the Kenyan diaspora associations, MDAs, Agencies and other stakeholders provides optimal platform for engagement and mobilization of Kenyans in the diaspora.
8. The Government and Parliament should promulgate laws, Rules and Regulations to ensure that Professional Kenyan Returnees are regarded and treated the same way as expatriates

are treated in employment and remuneration, such a move would attract skills transfer from the Diaspora. There is also need for local professional bodies to embrace the returnees by recognizing their qualification and expertise.

#### 2.3.4 Opportunities

Targeted and deliberate engagement with Kenyans living abroad has shown that there are greater dividends to be realized when the Government work in partnership with the Diaspora. The following are opportunities available through Diaspora Engagement:

1. Partnerships and investment in various value chains in different sectors of the economy. Opportunities exist in the agricultural value chain, financial services sector especially in fintechs, manufacturing, digital economy and creative arts, and affordable housing among others;
2. Collaboration with Kenyan Diaspora professionals and experts in diverse fields such as Legal Experts to address legal challenges encountered by Kenyans in the Diaspora, Medical Researchers and Practitioners to periodically conduct health clinics in the country, and University Professors and Lecturers for education exchange programs;
3. Skills, technology and knowledge transfer from the Diaspora. There are skills gaps in the country and high demand for new technologies and knowledge. This presents a huge opportunity for the diaspora to invest in filling the skills, knowledge and technology gap;
4. Promotion of Cultural exchange and enrichment programs. There exists a great opportunity for showcasing Kenyan culture in different parts of the world where Kenyans live and work. This includes through promotion of the Kenyan food, music, dressing among others towards preserving the country's rich culture and heritage;
5. Promotion of Kenya as top Tourism destination country. The diaspora is a great asset in promoting Kenya as a leading tourism destination given the extensive global spread of Kenyans. This entails Kenyan diaspora sampling the country's tourism products and also helping market Kenyan to foreigners in host countries;
6. Participating in Humanitarian assistance and philanthropic activities. There are numerous opportunities for partnership between the diaspora and the Government to undertake philanthropic activities in sectors such as education, health, support to the orphaned among other areas;
7. Increased Diaspora remittances and investments channeled through Diaspora centric products. There is room for development and dissemination of diaspora facing investment products which are tailor-made to their needs. Uptake of these products would catalyze diaspora direct investment in the country and enhance economic growth and development; and
8. Facilitating placement of Kenyans in the international job market. The Diaspora can assist the Government's efforts of placing more Kenyans in the international job market through insider knowledge of available opportunities in their host countries. In partnership with the Government, such opportunities when accessed will not only address the

unemployment challenge, but also enhance disposable incomes and ultimately socioeconomic transformation of the country.





## CHAPTER THREE: POLICY STATEMENTS AND POLICY ACTIONS

### 3.1 Rights, Welfare and Interests of the Kenyan Diaspora

The Government of Kenya recognizes the invaluable contribution of the Kenyan diaspora to the socio-economic development of the country. Kenyans living abroad are an important source of financial, intellectual, and social capital. Therefore, the government is committed to safeguarding their rights, welfare, and interests as well as ensuring their active participation in national development efforts while providing them with necessary support and protection.



The State Department for Diaspora Affairs led by its top leadership receiving Ms. Joyce Aoko, a Kenyan evacuated from Albania, on January 25, 2023 at the Wilson Airport. Health Ag. Director-General Dr. Patrick Amoth, among other senior officials from several government agencies were present



A Kenyan Diaspora receiving services during Phase III of the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) carried out in 2024. MCS Phase III was carried out in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America as well as the Caribbean.

#### 3.1.1 Policy Statement

The Government will advocate for the rights and interests of Kenyan diaspora, including through diplomatic channels, bilateral agreements, and engagement with international organizations.

#### 3.1.2 Context

The rights, welfare and the interests of the Kenyan diaspora are guaranteed by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and are protected and promoted by the Government. However, there are various challenges faced by Kenyans living abroad such as their personal security, social integration and identity crises in host countries, political pressures, humanitarian crises, economic impacts, strained international relations and psychological stress. Kenyans are also exposed to increased cases of human trafficking, which poses significant challenges in vetting opportunities available in foreign countries. Consequently, there is an upsurge of reported ~~in~~ cases of Kenyans in distress abroad. These issues undermine the rights, welfare and interests of Kenyans in the Diaspora

necessitating action and follow up by the Government with their counterparts where Kenyans are domiciled. Through this policy the government will address emerging contemporary issues affecting the diaspora.

### **3.1.3 Policy Actions**

The Government will put in place the following measures to guarantee the welfare and rights of the Kenyan diaspora:

- Establish a Comprehensive Kenya Diaspora Database;
- Develop and implement Evacuation and Repatriation Guidelines;
- Enhance provision of consular services to the Kenyan Diaspora;
- Enhance participation of the Kenyan diaspora in democratic processes;
- Establish a framework for pre-departure orientation and reintegration of the Diaspora;
- Establish mechanisms for portability of social benefits of Kenyans living in the diaspora; and
- Establish mechanisms for addressing distress cases among the diaspora.

## **3.2 Diaspora Savings, Investments, remittances and technology transfer**

### **3.2.1 Policy Statement**

The Government will create an enabling environment for diaspora engagements through implementing programmes and incentives that encourage investments, technology transfer, reduce cost of remittances, and mitigate investment risks.

### **3.2.2 Context**

The Kenyan Diaspora presents enormous potential for skills, knowledge, and technology transfer as well as Diaspora Direct Investments. Diaspora networks across the world are also a bridge for attracting FDI into the country. Growth in diaspora investments has not been at par with the increase in remittance inflows given that up to 75% of remittances are used for household consumption. Diaspora savings, investments and remittances are also hampered by high transaction costs that limit inflows and by extension reduce the overall impact. This necessitates targeted initiatives such as diaspora centric investment products and mechanisms for eliminating bottlenecks, thus increasing diaspora remittances. Direct investment by diaspora entrepreneurs and venture capitalists in their countries of origin strengthens prospects for economic growth by fostering the formation and growth of businesses, supporting innovation and developing new sectors of the economy.



Diaspora Affairs PS, Roseline Kathure Njogu CBS at the Konza Technopolis, accompanied by Kenyan Diaspora participants of the inaugural Diaspora Conference in December, 2023 exploring investment opportunities.



The top leadership of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in attendance at the inaugural Diaspora Investment Conference 2023 at the Kenyatta International Convention Center-KICC

### 3.2.3 Policy Actions

- Incentivize diaspora remittances, savings and investments;
- Develop mechanisms for establishing diaspora SACCOs in Kenya.
- Promote transfer of diaspora knowledge, skills, innovation and technology;
- Leverage the diaspora to promote Kenya as an investment destination of choice; and
- Leverage ICT in management of diaspora services.

## 3.3 Partnerships and Engagement with the Kenyan Diaspora

### 3.3.1 Policy Statement

The Government of Kenya is committed to promoting continuous dialogue with the Diaspora as an integral part of the country's national development process. Mainstreaming the Kenyan Diaspora into the national development process will build a more cohesive and citizen centered governance.

### 3.3.2 Context

The Kenyan diaspora is a valuable asset for the nation, comprising a diverse community of migrant workers, entrepreneurs, investors, and cultural ambassadors residing abroad. The Kenyan Diaspora community continues to feel left out in socio-economic development of the country in various aspects. This has led to mistrust between the diaspora and the government. As a result, the government intends to engage the Kenyan Diaspora in a more constructive and productive manner to unlock their full potential.





Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH presiding over official launch of the Pearson Vue Professional Test Center in Nairobi on 16th January, 2024. The Center is the second such test center in Africa.



Diaspora Affairs PS, Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, CBS officially opening the Ready Care Staffing Africa Limited facility in Nairobi, Kenya on 12th January, 2024. The facility was established to prepare nurses for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN).

### 3.3.3 Policy Actions

- Facilitate establishment of the Diaspora Summit;
- Establish a framework for partnership and engagement between the Diaspora and County Governments;
- Strengthen engagements with Diaspora Associations;
- Decentralize Government services to Kenyans in the Diaspora;
- Establish mechanisms for awarding exemplary diaspora initiatives;
- Promote the Kenyan brand and appoint diaspora brand ambassadors;
- Facilitate the establishment of diaspora centers in Kenya Missions Abroad;
- Establish a framework for collaboration with Professional bodies, membership organizations, membership of alma mater organizations with the Kenyan diaspora;
- Develop a framework for engagement with the diaspora on philanthropic programmes; and
- Establish a mechanism for collaboration with Business Member Organizations and private recruitment associations.

## 3.4 International Job Placement for Kenyans

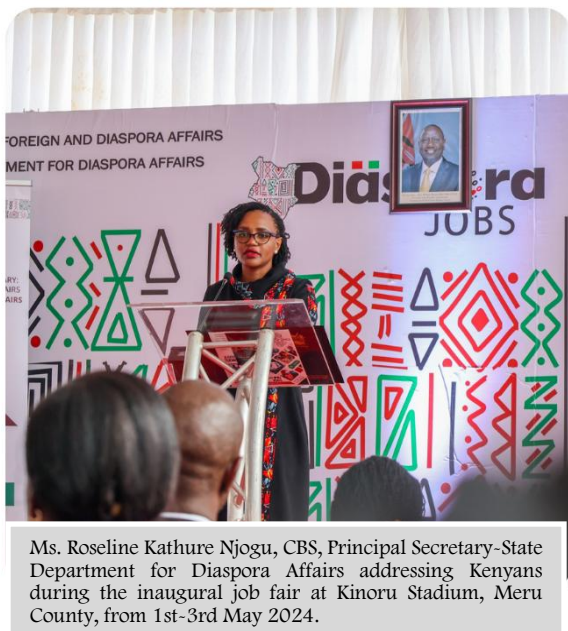
### 3.4.1 Policy Statement

The Government of Kenya recognizes the potential benefits of facilitating the overseas employment of Kenyan citizens, harnessing opportunities for economic advancement, skills

development, and international exposure. The Government is committed to facilitate skills development for targeted foreign labour markets to increase employability and competitiveness of the Kenyan Diaspora. The Government will continue to implement policies and initiatives to facilitate the ethical recruitment and secure job placement of Kenyans abroad.

### 3.4.2 Context

The number of Kenyan Diaspora is estimated to be around four million. The demand for the Kenyan labour force in the international market continues to increase given the comparative advantages which include good communication skills and multi lingual proficiency coupled with well-educated and tech savvy youth population. Kenyans continue to emigrate in search of better opportunities and lifestyle. The migration has been haphazard and uncoordinated leading to infringement of the Diaspora rights and compromised welfare. This has led to Government interventions aimed at ensuring that international job placements are ethical, well-coordinated and backed by national and international legal frameworks.



### 3.4.3 Policy Actions

- Facilitate development and implementation of the Global Labour Market Strategy;
- Establish and operationalize the Diaspora Placement Agency;
- Facilitate development and signing of Strategic Agreements on labour mobility; and
- Facilitate skills development and recognition of prior learning.

## CHAPTER FOUR: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the implementation framework, resource mobilization strategy and partnerships needed for implementing the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024.

### 4.2 Implementation Framework

The Government commits to implement strategies outlined in this Policy, in order to empower, engage and protect the Kenyan Diaspora for prosperity and meeting objectives of national development agenda. Consequently, this Policy will be implemented by various actors including Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Counties, The Parliament, Diaspora Associations, Destination countries, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations among other key actors.

The Policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of the institutions and agencies entrusted with the implementation of the Policy as follows:

#### **Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs**

The Ministry will remain the apex institution charged with the overall responsibility of coordinating Diaspora Affairs and in particular overseeing the successful implementation of this policy. The Ministry will therefore strengthen its institutional capacity, both at Headquarters and its Missions Abroad on diaspora issues.

The Ministry will establish a committee that will oversee and coordinate the Diaspora Excellence Awards.

#### **Ministry responsible for Labour and Social Protection**

In supporting Kenyans in the Diaspora, the Ministry responsible for Labour and Social Protection will:

- a) Provide the necessary framework for effective management of labour migration issues;
- b) Establish a labour migration database, which will be regularly updated and accessible to all relevant Government institutions for decision-making;
- c) Facilitate knowledge and skills transfer and partner with relevant Ministries to facilitate signing of Bilateral Labour Agreements to ensure fair working conditions as well as enable Kenyans working abroad to transfer their social security benefits;
- d) Liaise with the State Department responsible for Diaspora Affairs in the implementation of the Labour Migration Policy as well as Global Labour Strategy; and
- e) In liaison with the State Department responsible for Diaspora Affairs secure placement of Kenyans Abroad.

#### **Ministry responsible for Immigration and Citizen Services**

The Ministry responsible of Immigration Affairs will:

- a) Provide a policy framework on migration of Kenyans abroad;
- b) Facilitate the acquisition and renewal of national documents at Kenya Missions abroad;



- c) Facilitate the acquisition of dual citizenship for Kenyans in the diaspora, including their children born in the Diaspora or descendants where applicable, and also provide for the re-acquisition of citizenship; and
- d) Provide guidance on immigration matters to Kenyans in the Diaspora.

### **The National Treasury**

The National Treasury will:

- a) Provide an enabling environment and facilitate incentives aimed at increasing participation of Kenyans Abroad in economic development;
- b) Provide incentives for Kenyans abroad to establish philanthropic initiatives;
- c) Implement digital innovations to increase investment opportunities for the Diaspora;
- d) Increase registration of remittance service providers to ease the cost of remittances;
- e) Support formulation of Diaspora Bonds and investment opportunities in the financial sector; and
- f) Enhance public participation of the Kenyan Diaspora in the national budget making process.

### **Ministry Responsible for Education**

In supporting Kenyans abroad, the Ministry will undertake the following:

- a) Integrate ICT in teaching and learning across all levels of education and training, and provide e-learning to enable access to information and facilitate networking between Kenyan educational institutions and Kenyans Abroad;
- b) Create awareness on the Ministry web portal on the educational resources available to Kenyans within and outside;
- c) Promote learning of foreign international languages in Kenyan schools and colleges.
- d) Promote exchange programmes between Kenyan institutions and those from other countries;
- e) Engage in partnerships and collaborations with Kenyans abroad in investing in the national education support programmes;
- f) Standardize the academic curriculum to be competitive internationally;
- g) Facilitate mutual recognition of academic documents and certificates; and

### **Ministry responsible for Information, Communication and Digital Economy**

In supporting Kenyans Abroad, the Ministry will:

- a) Create publicity and awareness through electronic, print and social media on the events taking place abroad;
- b) Formulate appropriate information and communication technology policies to facilitate access to needed information to the Kenyan communities abroad;
- c) Enhance telecommunication infrastructure in order to facilitate universal access to information and enable Kenyan communities abroad to enhance communication and networking; and

- d) Facilitate the digitalization of Government services.

### **Ministry responsible for Health**

The Ministry responsible for health will:

- a) Collaborate and support placement of qualified Health Care Professionals abroad;
- b) Maintain and share a database of qualified Health Care Professionals; and
- c) Facilitate access to investment opportunities in the Health Care sector.

### **Ministry responsible for Investment, Trade and Industry**

In supporting the Diaspora Policy, the Ministry will collaborate with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, other Business Membership Organizations, Private Sector, and Investment Bodies to promote the growth, development and competitiveness of the economy by tapping into the potential of the Diaspora.

### **Ministry responsible for Youth and Creative Economy**

The Ministry will work to promote the talents of the Kenyan youth abroad in sports, arts, cultural and outreach events, knowledge exchanges to promote Kenyan culture through Missions and Kenyan Diaspora Associations.

The Ministry will establish a mechanism to engage with the Kenyan Youth in the Diaspora to provide cultural continuity and linkages to their heritage that will enhance their sense of belonging to Kenya.

### **Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)**

In supporting Kenyans Abroad, the Commission will:

- a) Work towards the fulfilment of constitutional provisions by providing a policy framework for the realization of progressive registration of Kenyans Abroad as voters; and
- b) Work closely with the Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Department responsible for Immigration and Registration of Persons and relevant stakeholders to implement the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya related to electoral processes.

### **County Governments**

In supporting Kenyans Abroad, the County Governments through the Council of Governors, will:

- a) Play a central role in facilitating the participation of Kenyans Abroad in county development; and
- b) Facilitate closer partnerships with the Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to ensure realization of the objectives outlined in this policy.

### **Diaspora Associations/Associations of Kenyan Communities Abroad**

The Diaspora Associations will play a crucial role in the development, disseminate and implementation of the Diaspora Policy and promote interests of Kenyans Abroad through structured dialogue. The Diaspora Associations will work closely with respective Kenya Missions abroad in the implementation of this policy.

### **Diaspora Summit**

The objective of establishing the Diaspora Summit is to create a structured and collaborative platform that will strengthen the relationship between the Government and the diaspora community. Members of the Diaspora Summit shall be nominated from the Diaspora association leadership. The Diaspora association leadership will be elected through a voting process by the entire diaspora community within the various regions. Elected leaders will hold office for a maximum of two terms of 2-years each.

The functions of the Diaspora Summit, among others, will be as follows:

- a) Enhance communication, address the needs of the Diaspora, and facilitate effective cooperation on matters of mutual interest.
- b) Oversee the operations of the Summit.
- c) Play a representational and advisory role to the government on issues of the Diaspora.
- d) Carry out research and benchmark with countries on best practices of Diaspora policies with a view of improving policies, programmes and institutional arrangements for the mutual benefit of the country and Kenyans Abroad.
- e) In consultation the Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and other stakeholders, organize the annual Jamhuri Diaspora Awards and Diaspora Investment Conference.

### **Development Partners**

The development partners will support and complement the Government effort and other stakeholders in their respective roles of sharing best-practices, financial, logistical and technical support within the framework of this Policy.

### **Private Sector**

In supporting Kenyans Abroad, the private sector will:

- a) Provide channels and linkages on engaging with the Diaspora;
- b) Assist in providing and mobilizing funds for the implementation of this policy;
- c) Package viable investment projects tailored to the needs of the Diaspora; and
- d) Market business opportunities to the Diaspora community in order to scale-up and diversify the use of remittances among recipients.

### **Civil Society Organizations**

The CSOs will play a critical role in the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the Diaspora Policy through provision of financial and business services, training, advocacy and monitoring the implementation of the Policy.

### **Media**



The Media will:

- a) Partner with Government to create awareness in showcasing the development contribution of Kenyans Abroad; and
- b) Play an important role by providing information, raising awareness and educating the public on the progress and achievements of the Diaspora Policy in a timely manner.

### **Parliament**

The role of Parliament will be multifaceted, encompassing legislative, oversight, budgetary, and representational functions to ensure that the Kenya Diaspora Policy effectively harnesses the potential of the diaspora for the development of the country.

The Parliament, through the relevant Committees, will review the proposed Kenya Diaspora Policy to ensure alignment with the broader development goals and legal frameworks, and the protection of the rights and welfare of Kenyans in the Diaspora.

### **4.3 Resource Mobilization**

The successful implementation of this policy will require adequate financial, human and technical resources to ensure effective and efficient implementation for desired policy outcomes. Resources will be mobilized from the National Treasury, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society and other funding agencies. Resource mobilization will also entail Public-Private Partnerships and Partnership with the diaspora community.

This policy will be implemented by two committees including: The National Steering Committee and the Technical Coordinating Committee.

## CHAPTER FIVE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

This section presents Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy and its review that takes cognizant of the existing Monitoring and Evaluation systems in the country. The M&E of the Policy shall establish whether the intended purpose of the Policy is being achieved and what corrective actions and reviews may be needed.

### 5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy

Monitoring and evaluation of the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024 will be linked/integrated through the Electronic National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (e-NIMES). The M&E of the Policy is intended to provide information on:

- How the operationalization of the Policy is meeting its set objectives;
- The challenges facing its implementation;
- What corrective actions may be needed to ensure delivery of results; and
- Whether it is making any positive contribution to the sustainable development of the Country.
- Provide feedback on its performance at the National level.

### 5.2 Policy Review

The Policy shall be reviewed after ten years of implementation or as need may arise from changing laws, policies and regulations, and emerging global issues. The review shall be initiated and coordinated by the State Department responsible for Diaspora Affairs after a successful evaluation of the Policy. The findings of the evaluation shall be used to improve the Policy and to inform on the performance and review of the Policy.

# How We Do It

