

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PAPER LAD  
By the Chairperson of  
the Constituencies Fund  
Committee, on Tuesday  
5.05.2011.

KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
TENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION

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PARLIAMENT  
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LIBRARY

CONSTITUENCIES FUND COMMITTEE

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CONSTITUENCIES FUND COMMITTEE REPORT OF STUDY TOUR  
TO SINGAPORE FROM 5<sup>th</sup> TO 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

Clerk's Chambers  
National Assembly,  
NAIROBI

May, 2011

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	2
Preface.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	5
1.0 BACKGROUND .....	6
1.1 Introduction.....	6
1.2 Committee Membership .....	7
1.3. Objectives of the Study Tour .....	7
2.0 SPECIFIC MEETINGS AND VISITS DURING THE STUDY TOUR.....	8
2.1 Meeting the Committee on Community Development and National Estimates .....	8
2.2 Visit to the Yio Community Kitchen Project .....	10
2.3 Meeting the Minister in charge of National Development and Education.....	13
2.4 Meeting the Singapore High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Yatiman Yusof .....	14
2.5 Visit to Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). .....	15
3.0 FINDINGS .....	18
4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACRA	-	Accounting and Corporate Authority
CCC	-	Citizens Consultative Committee
CDC	-	Community Development Council
CEF	-	Community Enterprise Fund
CIF	-	Community Integration Fund
CSPF	-	ComCare Social Support Project Fund
FSC	-	Family Service Centers
HOPE	-	Home Ownership Plus Education
LTF	-	Light Rail Transport
MRT	-	Mass Rapid Transport
NIC	-	National Integration Fund
URA	-	Urban Redevelopment Authority

## **Preface**

### **Mr. Speaker,**

The Constituencies Fund Committee is a Select Committee of Parliament constituted pursuant to Section 27 (1) of the Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2003. The functions of the Committee as stipulated in Section 27 (4) include, among others:

- (a) to determine the allocations and distribution to each constituency, of the amounts collected under section 4(2) and the utilization of any unspent funds intended for use by the Board under this Act,
- (b) to consider and report to Parliament, with recommendations, names of persons required to be approved by Parliament under this Act;
- (c) to consider and recommend to Parliament any matter requiring action by the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
- (d) to oversee the implementation of this Act and in this respect, shall after every two years submit a report to the National Assembly and where necessary, propose any amendments to this Act, in particular, with respect to the quantum of funds repayable into the Fund in accordance with section 4 of the Act.
- (e) to oversee the policy framework and legislative matters that may arise in relation to the Fund;
- (f) to continually review the framework set out for the efficient delivery of development programmes financed through the Fund; and
- (g) to carry out any other functions relevant to the relevant to the work of the Fund.

As a way of strengthening the management and administration of the Constituencies Development Fund, the Committee conducted a study tour to Singapore from 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The purpose of the tour was for the committee to familiarize itself with the development processes, procedures and systems in Singapore as it is the most developed country in the world. It is an example of a third world becoming a first world and it is often used as a model of economic development in Kenya.

In particular, the committee intended to do the following:

- Observe how the development process is coordinated.
- Study how the devolved funds are established and implemented.

- Compare and contrast the Kenyan development model with the Singaporean development model.
- Identify how the Central Government liaises with the Local Authorities in initiating, implementing and monitoring locally based projects.
- Appreciate concepts of development from Singapore that may enhance Kenya's model of rural/grassroots development.

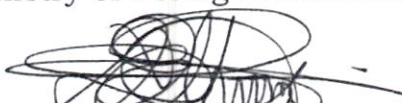
The Membership of the Constituencies Fund Committee comprise;

- (i) The Hon. Ekwere Ethuro, MP - **Chairman**
- (ii) The Hon. Moses Lessonet, MP - Vice Chair
- (iii) The Hon. Alfred Sambu, MP
- (iv) The Hon. Charles Kilonzo, MP
- (v) The Hon. Charles M. Nyamai, MP
- (vi) The Hon. (Dr) Nuh Nassir, MP
- (vii) The Hon. Evans Akula, MP
- (viii) The Hon. (Eng) Nicholas Gumbo, MP
- (ix) The Hon. F.T. Nyammo, MP
- (x) The Hon. Wilfred Ombui, MP\*
- (xi) The Hon. Magerer J. Lang'at , MP\*

Two committee members, Hon. Magerer Lang'at and Hon. Wilfred Ombui ceased being members of the Committee after they were appointed to position of Assistant Ministers in April, 2010. The two have since been replaced by Hon. Manson Nyamweya, MP and Hon. John Dache Pesa, MP.

During the study tour of Singapore, the Committee had the opportunity to hold discussions with the Deputy Speaker, Parliamentary Committees, Government Ministers and Senior Government officials.

The Committee wishes to record its appreciation to you, Mr. Speaker Sir and the Deputy Speaker as chair of Liaison Committee for according it the opportunity to undertake the tour. Further, the Committee thanks the Clerk of the National Assembly for the continuous facilitation of the Committee's operations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the protocol and logistical support during the trip.



**Hon. Ekwere Ethuro, MP**

**CHAIRMAN, CONSTITUENCIES FUND COMMITTEE**

Date.....5TH MAY, 2011.....

## **Executive Summary**

The Constituencies Fund Committee is a Select Committee of Parliament constituted pursuant to Section 27 (1) of the Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2003. In order to familiarize itself with the development processes and procedures, the Committee during its 36<sup>th</sup> Sitting, resolved to undertake a study tour to Singapore from 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. The delegation comprised the following four (4) Members of Parliament and a Parliamentary Staff namely: Hon. Ekwere Eghuro, MP (Leader of the delegation); Hon. Charles Kilonzo, MP; Hon. Charles Nyamai, MP; Hon. Wilfred Ombui, MP and Ms. Perpetual Muiga. During the study, the team had the opportunity to hold discussions with the Deputy Speaker of Singapore Parliament, Parliamentary Committees, Ministers and Senior Government officials. The delegation found out that the Government of Singapore funds income generating projects; had established a housing project which provided accommodation to 80% of its population; and had devolved funds which cater for the poor by offering investment grants to the jobless. The team further established that Kenya does not have a diplomatic mission in Singapore. The team recommended that the government should establish a Diplomatic Mission in Singapore to promote co-operation between the two countries and also set up an agency/corporation (a one stop shop) to deal with development issues and overall national planning so as to ensure consistency in the country's development.

## **1.0 Background**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Constituencies Fund Committee is a Select Committee of Parliament constituted pursuant to Section 27 (1) of the Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2003. According to Section 27 (4), the functions of the Committee are well spelt out. They include, among others:

- a. to determine the allocations and distribution to each constituency, of the amounts collected under section 4(2) and the utilization of any unspent funds intended for use by the Board under this Act,
- b. to consider and report to Parliament, with recommendations, names of persons required to be approved by Parliament under this Act;
- c. to consider and recommend to Parliament any matter requiring action by the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
- d. to oversee the implementation of this Act and in this respect, shall after every two years submit a report to the National Assembly and where necessary, propose any amendments to this Act, in particular, with respect to the quantum of funds repayable into the Fund in accordance with section 4 of the Act.
- e. to oversee the policy framework and legislative matters that may arise in relation to the Fund;
- f. to continually review the framework set out for the efficient delivery of development programmes financed through the Fund; and
- g. to carry out any other functions relevant to the relevant to the work of the Fund.

## 1.2 Committee Membership

The Membership of the Constituencies Fund Committee comprise:

- i. The Hon. Ekwee Ethuro, MP - **Chairman**
- ii. The Hon. Moses Lessonet, MP - Vice Chair
- iii. The Hon. Alfred Sambu, MP
- iv. The Hon. Charles Kilonzo, MP
- v. The Hon. Charles Nyamai, MP
- vi. The Hon. (Dr) Nuh Nassir, MP
- vii. The Hon. Evans Akula, MP
- viii. The Hon. (Eng) Nicholas Gumbo, MP
- ix. The Hon. F.T. Nyammo, MP
- x. The Hon. Wilfred Ombui, MP\*
- xi. The Hon. Magerer J. Lang'at , MP\*

## 1.3. Objectives of the Study Tour

- i. to observe how the development process is coordinated.
- ii. to study how the devolved funds are established and implemented.
- iii. to compare and contrast the Kenyan development model with that of Singapore
- iv. to identify how the Central Government liaises with the development agencies in initiating; implementing and monitoring locally based projects.
- v. to appreciate concepts of development from Singapore that may enhance Kenya's model of rural/grassroots development.



## **2.0 SPECIFIC MEETINGS AND VISITS DURING THE STUDY TOUR**

The delegation had the opportunity to hold meetings with several Government Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior government officials. It also conducted visits to development agencies and projects.

### **2.1 Meeting the Committee on Community Development and National Estimates**

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Community Development and National Estimates briefed the delegation that the Government of Singapore, through the Ministry of Community Development has various funds to cater for the need of its citizens. These Community Development funds include: (1) ComCare Fund; (2) Poor People Welfare Programme; (3) Community Integration Fund.

#### **ComCare Fund**

ComCare Fund is a commitment from the Government to do more for needy Singaporeans. It ensures that all Singaporeans are self reliant. ComCare ensures:

- The needy are assisted. New schemes are continuously developed to help needy Singaporeans and their families become self-reliant.
- Greater decentralization and more helping hands. This support is taken closer home through community, grassroots and voluntary welfare organizations. Some of these include, the Community Development Councils (CDCs), Citizens' Consultative Committees (CCCs) and Family Service Centres being the key contact points for those who need help.
- More flexibility in giving Assistance where it is needed most. It takes into consideration the special circumstances faced by needy Singaporeans and their families.
- Simplified and streamlined assistance.

ComCare consists of three key programme pillars, each covering a specific client group. These programme pillars are:

- ComCare Self-reliance - focus on helping the needy to achieve self-reliance.
- ComCare Grow - focus on the developmental needs of children from needy families, to help them break out of the poverty cycle.
- ComCare EnAble - focus on helping the needy who require long-term assistance (such as the needy elderly and people with disabilities), to integrate into the community.

If a citizen requires help, all he or she needs to do is to approach their respective Community Development Council (CDC), Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC) or a Family Service Centre (FSC) in their locality.

The nationwide programmes under the three ComCare components are: -

**Citizens' Consultative Committee ComCare Fund(CCC):** Needy residents approach their Citizens' Consultative Committee for assistance from the CCC ComCare Fund. The Fund was created in recognition of the important role that community organizations and grassroots leaders have in helping their needy residents. The CCCs can use this money to help needy residents in different ways depending on the needs of their residents.

**Home Ownership Plus Education (HOPE) Scheme:** The Home Ownership Plus Education (HOPE) Scheme is a long-term incentive-based scheme. It is targeted at low income families who choose to keep their families small so they can invest in their children's future and break out of the poverty cycle. Under the HOPE scheme, families receive comprehensive benefits ranging from a housing grant, education bursaries for their children, a utilities grant, and training grant to upgrade their skills, mentoring support and cash grants.

**ComCare Social Support Project Fund(CSPF):** The government of Singapore has set aside \$10 million for ComCare Social Support Project Fund(CSPF). This is intended to provide seed funding for pilot programmes identified by the community to meet service gaps or new emerging needs for those in need.

Grassroots, Voluntary Welfare and other community-based Organizations can propose pilot programmes and ComCare will help provide the initial funding. CSPF can help fund up to 50% of the total cost of the project for up to a maximum of 3 years.

Some of the pilot programmes that have been approved under CSPF are:

- Project Dance Edge by the ARTS FISSION Company
- Dedicated Northeast Ambulance Service by Green Crescent Pte Ltd
- Ang Mo Kio - Yio Chu Kang Community Carers' Scheme by the Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centres
- Enhanced Information & Referral, Networking and Outreach for Family Service and Multi-Service Centres by the National Council of Social Service

Singaporeans who need assistance are required to get in touch with their Community Development Councils, Family Service Centres, or grassroots leaders for help. Those who do not know who to approach for help may call ComCare Hotline and are guided to the appropriate agency for assistance.

The Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports engages its ComCare partners through a regular series of one-page snapshots with pertinent information related to ComCare.

The ComCare Fund budget for Financial Year 2008 was \$63.7 million while in the Financial Year 2009 the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports set aside \$168 million to help the low income earners and needy. This fund also caters for other social services and social infrastructure.

## **2.2 Visit to the Yio Community Kitchen Project**

The Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports through the ComCare Enterprise Fund (CEF), has established a project known as Community Kitchen. This project supports the needy residents of Bukit Panjang.

This is a pastry-making business that creates employment for women from disadvantaged families, particularly among the Malay community. The delegation was informed that the project was formulated by Dr Teo Ho Pin, MP for Bukit Panjang and Mayor of Northwest CDC. The project was launched in April 2005 on a very small scale at the Al-Iman Mosque. In 2006 the CEF funded the project to a tune of S\$140,000, the Community Kitchen moved to bigger premises at Bukit Panjang Community Club (CC).

The Community Kitchen Project is managed by a project coordinator, who is responsible for day to day management. Project Coordinator of the Community Kitchen briefed the delegation on operations and fund mobilization, indicating that the project had to adhere to strict guidelines based on business proposal and the community work to secure funding from ComCare Enterprise Fund (CEF).

### **How the project works**

- 1) Employees of the Community Kitchen prepare pastries, cakes and cookies for small-scale retail and catering purposes.
- 2) Each cell has a total of 13 women who are trying to find a place in this society forming the kitchen crew.
- 3) The women are selected among numerous applicants and sent for training after thorough examination of their backgrounds and financial situations.”
- 4) The kitchen crew works in 2 shifts to prepare the raw ingredients and the end products.
- 5) Every morning, the pastries are collected and sold from 2 push carts strategically located in two districts.
- 6) Community Kitchen also offers a catering service, taking orders from MCYS, Town Council, North West CDC and other bodies.

## **Benefits of the Kitchen Project**

This project is beneficial as the ladies who work at the Kitchen earn a living and have renewed spirit and energy and are able to sustain their families. The project has created business opportunities.

## **Community Integration Fund (CIF)**

Singapore government established the National Integration Council (NIC) in April 2009 to promote and foster social integration among Singaporeans, and with new Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents. The NIC is chaired by the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and comprises of leaders from the community, private sector and government. The NIC created a fund known as Community Integration Fund (CIF) on 16 September 2009. The fund is aimed at encouraging ground-up social integration efforts from the people, private and public sectors. The \$10 million fund is intended to provide co-funding of up to 80% of the total expenditure of projects that provide opportunities for new immigrants, foreigners and locals to interact and communicate with each other, and improve their understanding of each other's culture, values and norms. The fund is open for application to all Singapore-registered non-profit organizations, societies registered with the Registry of Societies and private companies under the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority of Singapore (ACRA)

## Comparison between the ComCare Fund and CDF

No	ComCare Fund	CDF
1.	Singapore Government set aside \$168 million	GOK set aside \$155 million (Ksh.12.4b) for the financial year 2009/2010
2.	ComCare through CSPF can help fund up to 50% of the total cost of the project for up to a maximum of 3 years	CDF fund can fund 100%, timeline is not specified
3.	Comcare funds income generating project	CDF does not fund income generating projects
4.	Funds individuals and groups	CDF Funds organized community projects only targeting poverty at constituency level
5.	Fund is supplemented by other agencies	CDF is mainly funded by the Government, i.e 2.5% of government ordinary revenue

### 2.3 Meeting the Minister in charge of National Development and Education

The Minister for National Development and Education, Hon. Fu Grace informed the delegation that she is mandated to oversee the two ministries. The ministry of National Development oversees several projects. These projects include the housing project, self empowerment projects.

#### Government Housing Programme

The Government of Singapore initiated a housing project to cater for housing needs of the Singaporean. The programme helps in construction of houses for the poor and middle level income earners by putting up storey buildings. Each storey holds about 1000 units of two, three or four bedroom units. The government encourages young couples to acquire the two bedrooms units as this would comfortably cater for their housing needs. These units are either rental or one can buy the unit through the government mortgage scheme. The housing allocation is executed by the government and hence community/tribe balance is considered. The classification is determined by

the salary grade but one can upgrade if their income increases. The class earning below \$8,000 purchase houses worth \$50,000. The estates have schools, shopping centres, medical and sports facilities.

### **Infrastructure Development**

Singapore has a well established infrastructure especially the transport network which includes water, air, road, rail; the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LTF). The road network is well established and the government in its annual budget sets aside 18% of its budget for construction and maintenance of the transport network.

The delegation recommends increase in budget allocation for transport sector especially the road network.

## **2.4 Meeting the Singapore High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Yatiman Yusof**

The Ambassador briefed the committee as follows: -

Singapore is a country with a globalised, entrepreneurial and diversified economy. It has a very good frame of reference for trade as well as cultural agreement with Kenya which would be of vital importance to both countries as they are both touristic hubs with different focal points. Hence working together will further development in the two countries. Hence having an office in Singapore to support tourism, trade and consular services is important.

### ***Tourism:***

The delegation was informed that Kenya receives approximately 252 tourists from Singapore every year. This accounts for only 20% of the actual number of tourists wishing to visit Kenya from Singapore but do not know how and where to get proper information with regard to visa application procedure as well as traveling to Kenya.

The Singaporean tourists who visit Kenya are referred to the Kenyan High Commission in India, which has jurisdiction over applications and inquiries from Singapore. This is obstacles faced by residents of Singapore who wish to travel to Kenya for tourism.

It was noted that establishment of Kenyan Consulate in Singapore would greatly improve the proximity to source of information for prospective tourists as well as business men by minimizing processing times for visa applications as well as other consular and economic inquiries.

***Economy and Trade:***

In addition to people wishing to visit Kenya for tourism, there is also a considerable number of investors both foreign and local wishing to establish businesses in Kenya but their most notable problem is the lack of information on business inquiry such as business registration procedures in Kenya, safety, Kenyan tax and insurance policies and cost of labor. A Kenyan Consulate in Singapore would serve as a proper media to better liaise with and provide adequate information to aspiring investors residing in Singapore.

Besides tourism and trade, the Kenyan High Commission in Singapore would be of the utmost importance to its citizens residing in Singapore and the neighboring islands.

**2.5 Visit to Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).**

The delegation visited the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and established the following;

Urban Redevelopment Authority is Singapore's national land use planning authority. URA prepares long term strategic plans, as well as detailed local area plans, for physical development, and then co-ordinates and guides efforts



to bring these plans to reality. Prudent land use planning enables Singapore to enjoy strong economic growth and social cohesion, and ensures that sufficient land is safeguarded to support continued economic progress and future development.

Given Singapore's small size, judicious land use planning is critical for the nation's future. URA takes into consideration not just the needs of the city but all the needs of an independent nation and provides sufficient land for economic growth and future development.

URA mission is to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play in by planning and facilitating the physical development of Singapore, in partnership with the community, to create a vibrant, sustainable and cosmopolitan city of distinction.

### **Challenges being faced by URA**

- a) Singapore has limited land area of about 699 sq km hence URA faces immense challenges in land use planning to house the needs of a nation state.
- b) Not all the land area can be developed since 40% is water catchment areas
- c) Height restrictions imposed by airports on buildings height limit.
- d) Some land area has been set aside for military use.

The delegation established that Singapore and URA in particular is countering these challenges by;

- a. creating new land by reclamation off the seashore;
- b. maximizing use of the already existing land by intensifying land use by locating various facilities together instead of separately, for instance locating storm water collection ponds under road flyovers; building stack factories; locating various facilities underground; location of train stations and bus stations over each other.

- c. Minimizing constraints on development by using technology such as cleaner power station fuel to reduce buffer zones of pollutive factories, or grouping such industries together and relocating them off shore.

### **URA Concept Plan**

The delegation observed that URA Concept Plan is broad and strategic. Long term land use and transportation plan is updated once every 10 years to guide Singapore's physical development.

The first Concept Plan was developed in 1971 and it guided the development of one of the world's best airports - the Singapore Changi International Airport, as well as the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRT).

The latest Concept Plan 2001 maps out Singapore vision in the next 40 to 50 years based on a population scenario of 5.5 million. The Concept Plan 2001 was put together after extensive public consultation through focus groups, internet feedback, public dialogues and exhibition.

The vision set out in the Concept Plan 2001 is to develop Singapore into a thriving world-class city in the 21st century. The key aspects are:

- a) Providing more new homes in familiar areas
- b) Introducing more high-rise buildings in the city
- c) Offering more choices for recreation
- d) Allowing greater flexibility for businesses
- e) Establishment of a global business centre
- f) Building of an extensive rail network
- g) Focusing on identity of Singapore

The Concept Plan 2001 aims at providing more new homes in established areas. This will help to foster community bonds and rejuvenate existing towns.

In future, one or two new towns will be developed. More homes will be built in the city, increasing the live-in population from the current 3% to 7%. Consequently, this will build up a critical mass of population in the Central Area and add more buzz to the city. For recreation, there will be more accessible green spaces, sporting and cultural facilities. The Concept Plan aims to almost double the amount of green space to 4,500 ha. Access to the Central Water Catchment will be enhanced for low-impact recreational uses. The Concept Plan 2001 plans to keep the existing nature areas in their rustic state for as long as possible.

The delegation further established that in terms of businesses, the zoning system will be revised to allow greater flexibility through the creation of new business zones which categorize industrial and business activities according to their impact on the environment. The Concept Plan 2001 also plans for a global financial hub by concentrating the majority of financial and services sectors within the Central Area. In the transport sector, transport system will also be enhanced, with the existing 93km of rail lines increased to about 500km in future.

The team recommended that Kenya should establish an agency/corporation (one stop shop) to deal with development and overall national planning. The agency should cater for architectural designing of buildings, road network, land allocation, infrastructure development as a whole. This will ensure consistency in the country's general layout and design.

### **3.0 FINDINGS**

The CFC Study tour of Singapore focused on development processes and procedures, which revealed the following:

- i. The government of Singapore has put in place well defined development policies and implementation procedures;

- ii. Planning for the Country/city is done by an agency(Urban Redevelopment Authority)
- iii. The government provides shelter for 80% of its population through a housing programme
- iv. Allocation to the houses under the housing programme is strictly based on ethnic ratios so that all ethnicities are represented and live together to promote cohesion.
- v. The infrastructure in the country is well defined;
- vi. The government offers grants to the poor and unemployed.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. Constituencies Development Fund should consider funding income generating projects for less disadvantaged citizens;
- ii. The Government, through Ministry of Planning National Development and Vision 2030, should consider establishing an agency/corporation (one stop shop) to deal with development issues and overall national planning of the country;
- iii. The Government to increase the budget allocation for transport sector especially for the rail and road network;
- iv. The Government should consider establishing a Consulate in Singapore to foster co-operation between the two countries and also to act as a reliable source of information for prospective tourists as well as business men.
- v. The Government to increase Constituencies Development Fund Allocation to meet the current emphasis on infrastructure projects as well as to accommodate additional income generating activities that not only alleviate poverty but generate wealth.