REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

SECOND ASSEMBLY **SECOND SESSION.**

COMMITTEE BENCHMARKING REPORT TO ETHIOPIA.

DATED 12TH OCTOBER 2018.

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1.0 ACROYN /ABBREVIATION

CEPR –Centre for Economic Policy Research.

UNESCO –United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

MSA – Middle Stone Age

ICOMOS –International Council on Monuments and Site

IUCN –International Union for Conservation of Nature.

2.0 PREFACE

The Delegation to Ethiopia included the following members,

- Hon Stephen Nderitu - Chairman Trade Tourism and Cooperatives.
- Hon. John Muritu - Chairman Education Committee.
- Hon Daniel Mugweru - Chairman Public Accounts Committee
- Hon Veronica Ikunyua - Chairperson Health Committee.
- Hon George Meshami - Chairman Cohesion Committee.
- Jasper Mutuiri - Clerk County Assembly of Laikipia.
- Edward Kirega - Committee Clerk.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

On behalf of the Committee, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the necessary support provided in the execution of the committee's mandate.

I also wish to thank and appreciate the firm support of the committee members for the successful compilation of this report. I also wish to acknowledge the support of the members of staff of the County Assembly who were also involved in compilation of this report.

Thank you.

Signed …… Date …….....

Hon: Stephen Nderitu.
(Chairman)

3.0 INTRODUCTION.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Committee headed by the Hon. Stephen Nderitu embarked on a benchmarking visit to Ethiopia between 1st to 6th May 2018 on Matters Tourism promotion and Trade.

The Committee earmarked Ethiopia Country as place to benchmark as a result of the following facts.

- Ethiopia has a competitive edge in terms of trade, industry and tourism.
- Ethiopia has modern infrastructure which has enhanced effective running of Trade and Tourism industry.
- Ethiopia has Social and Cultural investment programs and a talent academy is being developed which will enable nurturing skills in Theatre, Dance and Poetry.
- Ethiopia government has built human and technical capacities to enable traders/community take advantage of trade opportunities in the country and beyond. This has been achieved through; establishment of business centres /hubs at devolved levels of county government which provide services to individual traders, cooperatives and organized groups such as in training on business ethics; raise business plans / proposals for local businesses; offer financial management and record keeping services; upgrade technical skills so as to remain relevant and ensure products/services respond to dynamic needs and taste of consumers.

4. 0 COMMITTEE INVITATION TO CONFERENCE ON TRADE.

The Committee was invited to Ethiopia based on the following;

The production of most goods is increasingly organised along Global value chains, in which different stages of the production process are fragmented across countries. The Third Conference on Global Value Chains, Trade and Development was to take place at the United Nations Conference Centre Addis Ababa on the 1st to 6th of May 2018, with the goal of stimulating research on the important and timely questions raised on the emergence of global value chains and what the policy frameworks and regulations as well as legislation can achieve.

The conference was organised by Paola Conconi (Director of the CEPR Research Network on Global Value Chains, Trade and Development), Daria Taglioni (Global Solutions Lead of the World Banks Trade and Competitiveness Globe Practice), and Paramita Dasgupta (Practice Manager, Trade and Competitiveness Globe Practice Singapore Hub).

Trade and responding to opportunities and challenges appropriately is one of the bigger challenges for legislative processes in Africa. The challenges in trade affecting Agribusiness, Agri-processing, Tourism and even Technology and innovation stall at the Legislative point.

It was in this mind that the Committee was invited to the conference and other Government and Legislative personnel from across the globe presenting a good moment for the committee to exchange experiences as well as network.

During the period and immediately after the Conference the Committee was also planned to visit a Game reserve, an Abattoir, a water reservoir and Parliament during a working session as well as meet with the Committee on Trade. This was to help cement the learning and leanings of the Conference.

The Education tour was customized to meet the interest of experiencing the game reserve, the organic meat processing sites processing sites, the water reservoir and federal parliament. On the way, the committee was to have a city tour to Addis Ababa, also known as the capital city of Africa, the third diplomatic and founded on highlands city in the world as well as to the ethnic groups in Ethiopia.

The committee embarked on visits to several areas including the following;

TIYA WORLD HERITAGE SITE INSCRIBED IN 1980.

Tiya is located in the Soddo Region of Ethiopia. It is best known for its archaeological site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site remarkable for its large stone pillars, many of which bear some form of decoration. The menhir or stelae, "32 of which are engraved with enigmatic symbols, notably swords," mark a large, prehistoric burial complex. A German ethnographic expedition had visited the site in April 1935, and had found at one hour's journey to the south of the caravan camp the stone monoliths with sword symbol, which had been seen earlier by Neville and Père Azaïs. The archaeological site was designated a World Heritage Site in 1980.

A megalithic stelae field in Tiya.

Ethiopia has a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Axum (granted World Heritage status in 1980), the rock–hewn churches of Lalibela (1978), the Semien Mountains National Park (1978), the Fasiledes Castle in Gondar (1979); the prehistoric sites of Tiya (1980), the lower Valley of the Awash River (1980), the lower Valley of the Omo (1980), the Muslim Holy city of Harar (2006); and the Konso Landscape (2011). Unfortunately, the archaeology of Ethiopia is understudied in many ways. Little research has been done at Tiya, and there are several difficulties in understanding these types of sites from an archaeological standpoint. First, it is difficult to determine the identity of the megalith builders given just the megaliths themselves. Second, archaeologists have been preoccupied with reconstructing ethnic histories through oral historical accounts, yet these are unavailable or uninformative in many cases.

Surface finds at Tiya contained a selection of Middle Stone Age tools (MSA) that are technologically similar to tools found at Gademotta and Kulkuletti. Because of a unique production process that uses what are called “tranchet blows,” Tiya tools might also belong to the same time span as these other sites

Other points of interest near Tiya include Melka Awash, the Hera Shetan Crater Lake, and Agesok

Members of the Committee visiting The Tiya World heritage site which attracts both foreign and local tourists.

Committee members at the Tiya world Heritage site

World Heritage Nominations.

Only Countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention pledging to protect their Natural and Cultural Heritage,can submit nomination proposals for properties on their territory to be considered for inclusion in UNESCOs World Heritage List.

By preparing a Tentative List and selacting sites from it , a State Party can Plan when to present a nomination file. The World Heritage Center offers advise and assistance to the State Party in preparing this file, which needs to be as exhaustive as possible,making sure the nessecary documentation and maps are included. The nomination is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review and to check it is complete. Once a nomination file is comlete the world Heritage Centre sends it to the appropriate Advisory Bodies for evaluation.

A nominated property is independently evaluated by two advisory Bodies mandated by the World Heritage Convention, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of the cultural and natural sites nominated. The third Advisory Body is the International Centre for the Study of the presrvation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM),an intergovermental organization which provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites as well as on training activities.

Once a site has been nominted and evaluated, it is up to the intergovermental World Heritage Committee to make the final decision on its inscription . Once a year, the Committee meets to decide which sites will be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It can also defer its decision and request further information on sites from the State Parties.

To be incuded on the World Heritage List , sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out ten selection criteria. These criteria are explained in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention which,besides the text of the Convention,is the main working tool on World Heritage. The criteria are regulary revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

Untill the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected on the basis of six cultual and four natural criteria.With the adoption of the revised Operational Guidelines only one set of ten criteria exists.

For a site to be considered , it has ;

- To represent a masterpiece of Human Creative genius.
- To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the World,on developments in archtecture or technology, monumental arts,town Planning or land scape design.
- To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disapeard.
- To be an outstanding example of a type of building, artitechtural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.
- To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement ,land use or sea-use which is represententative of a cultural or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.
- To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs,with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.(the committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjuction with other criteria)
- To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exeptional natural beauty and aethetic importance.
- To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earths history, including the record of life,significant on- going geological proceses in the development of landforms , or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

- To be outstanding examples representing significant on – going ecological and biological proceses in the evolution development of terrestrial fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

Members visit to Modjo Modern Export Abattoir.

Members pose at Modjo Modern Export Abattoir.

The members visited the Modjo Modern Export Abattoir where they were taken through the processes undertaken by the company when producing meat for exportation .

The members were informed that;

- The company conducts its business with integrity, ethics and honesty and that it purposes to know their suppliers and customers and acknowledges that their customers are the most important business partners and hence treat them with respect and endeavour to understand their needs.

- The firm undertakes to be human towards all slaughter of animals and treat them with the rules of animal welfare and following appropriate methods and techniques and by creating a low stressed abattoir environment.

- The Firm aspires to be the undisputed market leader in the supply of quality, safe and wholesome meat and meat products to the United Arab Emirates Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

- The Firm ensures that it (Modjo Brand) remains a well-known brand association with meat safety and quality.
- The Firm ensures that it has a fully integrated production supplier and marketing systems that can be responsive to customer demand and strive to make their production activity eco-friendly.

Holding Ground for Animals Awaiting Slaughter.

The Committee members at China Trade Show in Ethiopia.

About 50 Chinese companies were expected to participate in China Trade Week in Ethiopia from May 3rd to 5th May 2018.

The managing director at Misgana Events company, an Ethiopian business promotion firm, said the Trade week held in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa was to see the participation of Chinese companies engaged in automotive, construction materials, electrical and power supplies, agricultural machinery, agro-food processing, office equipment production and daily necessity products.

The desire to have a Chinese Companies trade week was related to the need to create a trade platform where Chinese companies would interact with local business stakeholders in focus areas.

This was the second edition of the China Trade Week in Ethiopia, with a similar trade show held in Addis Ababa from July 4-6, 2017.

The China Trade Week in Ethiopia was supported by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

China is already Ethiopia's biggest trading partner, with Ethiopia exporting $144.5 million of goods to China in the first six months of the current Ethiopian Fiscal Year 2017/18.

Committee members pose at the China Trade Exhibtion Center,

The China Trade week is one of Chinas biggest and premium corporate sourcing exhibition with a vision of creating a unique platform to bring buyers and sellers of corporate manufacturers and merchandise together.

This platform has met with great success for both the groups to date. It has offered a high quality of professional ambiance that enables the right kind of exhibitors to meet the right kind of buyers by offering premium general products that meet their needs.

Exhibitors keep bringing innovative product solutions with plenty of variety making Prime Expo of China Trade Week what it is as a most awaited sourcing event.

5. 0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS.

The members made the following observations that;

- Ethiopia has a competitive edge in terms of trade, industry and tourism.
- Modern infrastructure- which has enhanced effective running of trade and tourism industry.
- Social and cultural investments programs- talent academy is being established which will enable nurturing skills in theatre, dance and poetry.
- Ethiopia Government has built human and technical capacities to enable traders/community take advantage of trade opportunities in the country and beyond. This has been achieved through; establishment of business centres /hubs at devolved levels of County Governments.
- The Government provides service to individual traders ,cooperatives and organized groups such as in- training on business ethics; raise business plans / proposals for local businesses; offer financial management and record keeping services; upgrade technical skill so as to remain relevant and ensure products/services respond to dynamic needs and taste of consumers.
- Ethiopia has a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites including Axum the Semien Mountains National Park, Tiya prehistoric sites among others, which have been a major tourist attraction thus boosting the Country's economy.
- At the Modjo Meat processing factory all the process of ensuring that the exported products meet the international standard is done by a government officer from the Department of Veterinary services after which a government permit is issued for any export of livestock products to avoid compromising on quality.
- In Ethiopia, the Livestock farmers do partner with the Government whereby they are assisted in capacity building on production of best quality beef and provision of prevention and curative measures of the most common diseases at affordable rates.

6. 0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Committee came up with the following recommendations that;

- The Department of Tourism in Laikipia County champions the promotion of both local and foreign tourism through creation of an enabling business and investment environment.
- The County Government of Laikipia should implore ways of partnering with both local and foreign investors and more so the Chinese who organised a successful China trade week in Addis Ababa Ethiopia to organize an innovation fair.
- Laikipia County Government should start social and cultural investment programmes such as talent academy that shall nurture skills such as in theatre, dance and poetry.
- The County Government of Laikipia should partner closely with farmers (Livestock and crop) to ensure that they get the necessary financial assistance that will facilitate high quality production.
- The County Government of Laikipia do seek partnership with bodies like UNESCO to see that the pre- historic sites found in Laikipia may be recognised as world heritage sites which will attract both local and international tourists.
- The County Government of Laikipia should come up with a modern abattoir through which it will purchase, slaughter, prepare and sell the products both locally and internationally to avoid middle men who buy the animals at throw away prices.

7.0 CONCLUSION.

That this House adopts the Committee's report.