



**REPORT
OF THE
AUDIT COMMITTEE ON THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR QUARTER 1 AND 2 FOR 2018/2019 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**12 TO 16 NOVEMBER 2018
SEASIDE HOTEL AND SPA, SWAKOPMUND**

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Honourable Bernard Sibatani

Honourable Dawid Boois

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Acknowledgements

The Standing Committee on Audit acknowledge the support of the National Council Secretariat in making the Monitoring and Evaluation exercise a great success.

Terms of reference:

1. Ascertain whether the Standing Committees were indeed carrying out their oversight functions as planned and the associated expenditure;
2. To determine whether the planned activities were aligned with the National Development Plans, such as the National Budget and Medium Term Expenditure as well as the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) pillar 1 that focusses on effective governance by improving performance and service delivery; and
3. To scrutinise and assess the activities of the Standing Committees to ensure that Government programmes produced desired results for the intended recipients and that the Government projects were implemented effectively and efficiently.

Executive Summary

The National Council Standing Committee on Audit was established to oversee that the National Council Standing Committees execute their oversight functions effectively over the respective Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies (O/M/As) and Regional Councils (RCs) with the aim to enhance service delivery. As per the Audit Committee's Activity Plan for 2018/2019 Financial Year, the Audit Committee conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation exercise. The objective of the Monitoring and Evaluation exercise was to assess progress made on the implementation of the activities of the Standing Committees during the first two quarters of the Annual Activity Plan for 2018/2019 Financial Year, and to recommend interventions as well as to offer direction and advice on corrective actions. In a nutshell, the exercise was aimed at scrutinising and assessing the activities of the Standing Committees to ensure that Government programmes produced desired results for the intended recipients and that the Government projects were implemented effectively and efficiently. The National Council's six Standing Committees appeared before the Audit Committee, each Standing Committee was allocated time slot of half an hour, in which they made PowerPoint presentations to the Audit Committee, followed by an hour of discussion. The presentations gave an insight into the Committees' plans and the progress made on the implementation thereof. It was established that a total number of 19 activities were implemented out of a combined total of 32 planned activities by the respective Committees. A total number of 13 activities were carried over to other quarters due to various reasons ranging from lack of quorum, clashing activities as well as dual membership in respect of the Women Caucus. The Standing Committees demonstrated commitment and dedication in carrying out their responsibilities in respect of the planned activities, despite having deferred some activities to the other quarters. Committees' efforts were demonstrated, in that, government policies and programmes were positively influenced after the interventions or inquiry by Committees. For instance, the transfer of supervision to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, with regard to the drilling of boreholes for rural water supply; the upgrading of Youth Centres in one financial year, and the significant improvement in the issuing of national documents for the communities of Gam and Eiseb Block. This was subsequent to the recommendation advanced by the Standing Committees on Habitat, Gender, Youth, Information, Communication and Technology and the Standing Committee on Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs, following the oversight visits

by the respective Committees. Challenges highlighted included non-adherence to the meeting schedule due to clashing activities; insufficient time during the Committees' planning session resulting in overlapping of activities; budgetary constraints and non-existence of a formal structure to follow-up on recommendations among others. The Monitoring and Evaluation concluded with various recommendations including calling for the need for Standing Committees to align their plans to the developmental plans such as the Vision 2030, Harambee Prosperity Plan, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), as well as the National Council Strategic Plan and allocation of sufficient time to Standing Committees during the planning session among others.

List of Abbreviations

AGM - Annual General Meeting

GYITC - Standing Committee on Gender, Youth, Information, Technology and Communication

HWC - Human Wildlife Conflict

O/M/As – Offices, Ministries and Agencies

Ministry of Environment and Tourism – MET

RCs – Regional Councils

Southern African Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committee (SADCOPAC)

SCHABT - Standing Committee on Habitat

SCPACE - Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy

SCLS - Standing Committee on Security, Constitutional and Legal Services

SURD - Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development

WC - Women Caucus

UN – United Nations

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Committee conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation exercise during the period 12th to 16th of November 2018, at Seaside Hotel and Spa in Swakopmund where Chairpersons of all the National Council Standing Committees appeared before the Audit Committee to account for the execution of the activities of their respective Committees.
- 1.2 The purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation exercise was to assess progress made on the implementation of the activities of the Committees during the first two quarters of the Annual Activity Plan for 2018/2019 Financial Year, and to propose interventions where necessary as well as to provide guidance and advice on remedial actions.

2. Background

- 2.1 In an effort to strengthen parliament's oversight function over the executive, the National Council has established the Standing Committee on Audit, which is mandated to oversee that the National Council Standing Committees execution of their oversight functions effectively over the respective Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies (O/M/As) and Regional Councils (RCs), with the aim to enhance service delivery.
- 2.2 The Standing Committee on Audit derives its powers and functions from Rule 161 of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders.
- 2.3 The Audit Committee has among others; the powers to summon Chairpersons/Presiding Members of the Standing Committee to appear before the Committee on the performance of the Standing Committee and to investigate on the implementation of the recommendations of reports of the Standing Committees as tabled in the House.
- 2.4 The functions of the Audit Committee include:
- *Scrutinising and reporting to the National Council on the work of any Standing Committee or any other body as may be determined by the Council;*

- *Encourage standing Committee to submit reports on their work in the Council at determined intervals;*
- *Review the work of the Standing Committees quarterly;*
- *Advise and hold Standing Committees generally accountable on the performance of their work;*
- *Monitor the implementation of the National Council Strategic Plan on a quarterly basis; and*
- *Perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the National Council.*

2.5 The Audit Committee is comprised of five members; these are as follows:

- Honourable Lebbius Tobias – Chairperson
- Honourable Bernard Sibatani
- Honourable Dawid Boois
- Honourable Ngozu Muharukua

3. Official Opening of the Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise

3.1 The Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Honourable Lebbius Tobias officially opened the Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise and welcomed Chairpersons of various National Council Standing Committees. In his welcoming remarks, Honourable Tobias explained that Monitoring and Evaluation was a valuable tool to support the work of Committees of the National Council, and was of great help to the Audit Committee and the National Council as an institution, in providing a broader understanding of what works, what does not and why.

3.2 He pointed out that it was of vital importance that progress and results be documented, lessons shared and future work methods and interventions to be agreed upon. Thus, in order for the Audit Committee to have an appreciation of the performance of the various Committees' work, there was a need to review the achievements of the National Council through the work of the Committees and to identify challenges experienced.

- 3.3 Furthermore, he reiterated that as representatives of the people, members of Parliament of the National Council and by extension, the Committees were established to carry out functions on behalf of the House, and must thus also account for the money allocated to Committees as it would enhance transparency.
- 3.4 Honourable Tobias also stressed on the importance of transparency in the execution of all funded activities. He called on the Members of Parliament to recognize that the monies availed to carry out the Committees' activities, were taxpayer's money, and thus, carry accountability and must be prudently used.
- 3.5 Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the National Council, delivered the Keynote Speech, in which she outlined Namibia's democracy which is underpinned by a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislature and the judiciary. As such, Parliament, as the body that represents the people, has a responsibility to ensure that government's policies, operations and programmes reflect and meet the people's needs and are properly implemented and delivered to target citizens.
- 3.6 Honourable Mensah-Williams also emphasized the importance of Standing Committees to the National Council, pointing out that they were an indispensable part of parliament as they offer a setting, which facilitates detailed scrutiny of bills, oversight of government activities and interaction with the general public and private sector stakeholders. Consequently, a significant part of the National Council's work is conducted in Committees rather than in the Chamber.
- 3.7 The Chairperson of the National Council further highlighted that through reports of Standing Committees, the National Council has over the years contributed immensely to change in government policies in areas such as, Human-Wildlife Conflict, protection of women and children from rape and gender-based violence, among others.
- 3.8 In addition, the Chairperson pointed out that it was through public consultation work of Standing Committees that led the National Council to, for example, reject the Regional

Councils Amendment Bill, Local Authority Amendment Bill, Citizenship Bill, Public Private Partnership Bill and two Constitutional Amendment bills.

- 3.9 In concluding her speech, the Chairperson encouraged the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees to continue driving the implementation process of the National Council's activity plans.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The Standing Committees appeared before the Audit Committee to account for the resources provided to each committee on oversight activities carried out during the first two quarters of 2018/2019 Financial Year.

- 4.2 The Standing Committees prepared PowerPoint presentations, highlighting the planned activities, indicating whether the activities were implemented or not, what were the challenges experienced as well as possible recommendations.

- 4.3 Each Committee was allocated a time slot of half an hour for presentation and an hour for discussion.

5. Summary of the Monitoring and Evaluation Session

- 5.1 The National Council's six Standing Committees appeared before the Standing Committee on Audit, where they accounted progress made in the implementation of the activities of the Committee and provided clarity and further information where it was sought.

- 5.2 The National Council's Standing Committees, which appeared before the Audit Committee were the:

- *Standing Committee on Gender, Youth, Information, Technology and Communication;*
- *Standing Committee on Habitat, Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy;*

- *Standing Committee on Security, Constitutional and Legal Services;*
- *Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development’; and*
- *Standing on Women Caucus.*

5.3 In order to guide the discussion/presentation, the Monitoring and Evaluation session centered around the following headings and sub-headings:

5.3.1 Key Area of Discussion

1.	Oversight Visits, Public Hearings, Briefing Sessions/Consultative Meetings, Outreach Programme, Working sessions, Benchmark
1.1	Activities planned for quarter 1 and 2
1.2	Activity implemented, yes or no with details;
1.3	Financial Implication;
1.4	Date and Place for the activity;
1.5	Expected Result (details in case of deviation);
1.6	Target Group;
1.7	Committee Members Participation;
1.8	Report tabled (yes/no – if yes, date) Challenges and Suggestions
2.	Recommendations submitted to OMAs (Oversight Visits, Public Hearings, Briefing Sessions/Consultative Meetings)
2.1	Report with Recommendations submitted to OMAs: Yes/No (Date, How many and to which OMAs)
2.2	Were there any written response/s received from OMAs: Yes/No (attach summary of feedback from OMAs)
2.3	Were responses tabled discussed/considered by the committee: Yes/No (Provide proof)
2.4	Follow-up made on the recommendations: Yes/No (Date) Challenges and suggestions
3.	Standing Committee Meetings (Quarter 1 and 2: 2018/2019 Financial Year)
3.1	No of meetings were convened
3.2	Date and Place
3.3	Attendance Register
3.4	Challenges and Suggestions

Table 1: Key areas of discussion

5.4 Planned Activities for Quarter 1 and 2 for 2018/2019 Financial Year

5.4.1 Statistics for Planned Activities

Committee	Oversight visits	Public Hearings	Briefing Sessions	Consultative Meetings	Capacity Building	Benchmark/Study	Working Sessions	Outreach Program	Total No. of planned activities
SCGYITC	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
SCHABT	2	-	-	-	1				3
SCPACE	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	-	8
SCSCLA	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
SCURD	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	8
WC	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	7
Totals	10	1	3	10	3	2	1	2	32

Table 2: Statistics for Planned Activities

5.5 Implementation of Activities for Quarter 1 and 2 per Committee

5.5.1 Statistics for Implemented Activities

Committee	Total No. of Activities Planned	No. of Activities Implemented	No. of Activities not Implemented
SCGYITC	3	2	1
SCHABT	3	1	2
SCPACE	8	5	3
SCSCLA	3	2	1
SCURD	8	3	5
WC	7	6	1
Totals	32	19	13

Table 3: Statistics of Implemented Activities per Committee

5.6 Summary of Planned Activities Implemented

No	Activity	Expected Results	Actual Results
1.	Meeting with Minister of Urban and Rural Development	Minister engaged on the operations of RDC's and the planned integration.	The meeting was convened with the Minister to address the integration of Rural Development Centers.
2	Assess sanitation progress in Otjozondjupa, Khomas and //Karas Regions	Monitored progress on eradication of the bucket system and provision of ablution facilities.	The Committee undertook the oversight visit to //Karas, Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Kavango East to assess the progress made on eradication of bucket system.
3.	Oversight on Government infrastructure / Asset Registry in Kunene, Kavango East and Otjozondjupa Region: Ministry of Works and Transport	Assessed Asset registry and inspected infrastructure	The Committee undertook the oversight visit to Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Kavango East Regions
4.	Visit to UN Habitat Headquarters Kenya – Nairobi	Committee Members enlightened on Habitat conventions and exposure to informal settlement, or slum, upgrading initiatives.	The Committee visited the UN-Habitat where they were taken through coursework in relation to the Habitat conventions.
5.	PAC Re-engineering Consultative Meeting	Stakeholders consulted. New strategies mapped vis-à-vis the handling of OAG Reports.	A workshop on business re-engineering involving various stakeholders took place. The workshop adopted resolutions.
6.	Committee working session to validate Committee PH draft report and review referred OAG reports.	Committee Report on PHs validated. No new referrals to the PAC.	The Committee Report of Oct/Nov 2017 public hearings was validated. New AG reports were also reviewed.
7.	Briefing session on the utilization of Community Based Conservancies' Funds	Ascertain the contribution of Aqua fishing to food security and poverty alleviation.	The Permanent Secretary briefed the PAC on community based conservancies.
8.	Briefing session on the construction of breeding ponds and hatchery.	Ascertain the contribution of Aqua fishing to food security and poverty alleviation.	The Permanent Secretary briefed the PAC on aquaculture projects.
9.	SADCOPAC Conference 2018	MPs and Staff attended the SADCOPAC AGM and Training on Public Financial Management.	The SADCOPAC AGM and Training replaced the Conference after no host country found.
10.	Engage the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare on	Progress determined on renovation and construction of Empowerment and Transitional	Engaged the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare together with other key ministries dealing with poverty

	the status of capital projects aimed at empowering women	Training Centres and Shelters for vulnerable groups and victims of Gender Based Violence in the regions.	alleviation programs for vulnerable groups which includes women.
11.	Engage the Ministry of Safety and Security to establish whether the Bangkok Rules are implemented.	Establish whether the Bangkok Rules were implemented by the Ministry	Inquiries were made with the Ministry of Safety and Security, it was established that the Bangkok Rules were being implemented and have been incorporated into the National Rules.
12.	Engage OMAs on the Implementation of the various recommendations by the Women Caucus as adopted by the National Council (Shelters, Liquor license, laws impacting on women's lives, proclamation of areas, etc.)	Actions taken by OMAs determined towards the implementation of the recommendations	The Women Caucus considered feedback from OMAs in respect of various recommendations made in the Women Caucus's outreach programme reports undertaken in September 2016 and August 2017, as well as the Report of the Fourth Rural Women Parliament with Men as Partners held in June 2017.
13.	Outreach program to assess impact of funded (grant) projects /equipment donated by the MGE CW and determine sustainability of the projects and the challenges faced by beneficiaries	Establish whether the grants provided by the Ministry has yielded results and benefiting all intended beneficiaries	Assessed projects funded by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare in Kavango East; Otjozondjupa; Oshikoto; and Oshana regions.
14.	Engage communities on child marriages, GBV and Modern Day Slavery	Child marriages in Namibia outlawed, communities sensitised on the dangers of GBV and Modern Day Slavery	Conducted outreach programme to engage communities on child marriages, GBV and Modern Day Slavery in Rundu, Groofontein and Oshakati.
15.	Training (Capacity Building) - Attend training on Women in Politics in Johannesburg, South Africa	Acquisition of necessary skills to strengthen the capacity of Women Parliamentarians	Members attended the 10 th Africa Women in Politics Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa on 30-31 October 2018 where they discussed the role of MPs as a strong voice against gender-based violence, create dialogue on how women in politics can play an active role in being a voice for vulnerable members of the society to protect their rights as well as handling the media effectively.

16	To look/study the existing, policies, legislation and regulations pertaining to Make follow-up on the recommendations of the report concerning the issuance of national documents with the relevant OMAs national documents	To ensure that MPs acquire understanding on existing Policies, Legislation and regulations on National Documents and can therefore make relevant recommendations for amending such laws, policies and regulations	Senior management cadres from the Ministry of Home Affairs appeared before the Committee in the Blue Room and presented on the existing, policies, legislation and regulations pertaining to national documents
17.	Make follow-up on the recommendations of the report concerning the issuance of national documents with the relevant OMAs	To fast track the issuance of National Documents	Senior management cadres from the Ministry of Home Affairs appeared before the Committee in the Blue Room and presented on the existing, policies, legislation and regulations pertaining to national documents
18	Conduct consultative Session with key Ministries dealing with poverty alleviation programs for vulnerable groups in consultation with Konrad Addenauer Stiftung (KAS) Foundation	Advocate for coordinated Poverty Alleviation Framework or work system that will be effectively managed (execute, monitor & evaluate) to ensure greater benefits for all vulnerable groups in Namibia.	The Committee conducted a joint consultative session with Ministry of Poverty, Office of the Vice-President, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, Namibia Disability Council. National Council Women Caucus
19.	Conduct Oversight Visits in Kunene Region	To ascertain the status of poverty alleviation projects and programs in the key constituencies in Kunene Region	The Committee conducted oversight to key constituencies in Kunene Region (Outjo Constituency Khorixas Constituency Opuwo Constituency)

Table 4: Implemented activities

5.7 Summary of Planned Activities Not Implemented

No	Activity	Reason for Non-Implementation	Next Action
1.	Meeting with National Assembly counterpart to foster a relationship between the two	No suitable dates could be secured since the two houses did not have coinciding session during quarter 1.	Committee will set aside a day to convene the meeting and not wait for a coinciding session.

	Committees in carrying out oversight functions.		
2.	Engage Public Office Bearers Commission (POBC) on various concerns by Regional and Local Councils.	Various Concerns of Members relating to Member benefits addressed.	The Committee will seek availability of members during the upcoming session as POBC should engage all National Council Members.
3.	Engage Association of Regional Councils (ARC) and Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) on various concerns by Regional and Local Councils	suitable dates could not be secured during the sessions due to the budget discussions and briefing on bills	The Committee resolved to first engage the POBC and thereafter ALAN and ARC. The meeting to be convened with the aforementioned bodies will be determined by the outcome of the meeting with POBC. Thus, the committee to meet first with POBC and if there is a need meet with ALAN and ARC
4.	Meeting with Trans Kalahari / Caprivi Corridor Groups on their operational modalities.	The activity could not be implemented during the first two sessions,	The activity will be implemented during Q4 of current financial year.
5.	Decentralisation process Monitoring	Most of the Committee members were attending the training on Parliamentary Practice and Conduct during 6-11 & 13-17 August 2018 and 17-21 & 24-28 September 2018	The activity will be implemented during Q4 of current financial year.
6.	Re-visit selected regions (list in Annual Plan) to determine the progress made on land servicing, rural water supply, SA borehole and unoccupied NHE houses	The activity could not take place as inadequate finances would still be advanced by the visited regions. A mechanism had to be devised on how stakeholders could be met concerning the activity in question.	A consultative meeting will be scheduled with the following stakeholders: Min of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Min of Urban and Rural Development ALAN
7.	Feedback on Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) conflict in the selected regions (as listed in Annual Plan)	The activity could not take place as the MET had submitted a Revised Policy regarding HWC and the accompanying mitigating efforts MET. The Committee saw it fit to wait until the new policy had been rolled out and then visit the affected regions to ascertain its	A consultative meeting will be scheduled with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The Ministry will tell Members on how it intends address recommendations that are not covered by the Revised Policy on HWC.

		impact; Again, the committee was invited to attend a meeting on the new bill on wildlife and protected areas;	
8.	Committee oversight visit to Regions to ascertain the contribution of Aqua fishing to food security and poverty alleviation.	The activity did not take place because it clashed with the NC Session and SADCOPAC AGM & Training	The activity to be undertaken in February 2019.
9.	Clerks benchmark visit to the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature (KwaZulu Natal, RSA)	The activity did not take place because it clashed with the SADCOPAC AGM & Training.	The Activity to be undertaken in 2019 as suggested by the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.
10..	Conduct Public Hearings on Auditor-General Reports (National Council, Windhoek)	The activity did not take place because new Reports referred to PAC during Aug session.	The challenge was that Reports needed to be reviewed before PHs take place. The Review was finally done from 29-31 Oct 2018.
11.	Asses impact of the activities of the members of the 1st to 4th Rural Women Parliament with Men as Partners.	Activity deferred to Quarter as the Caucus does not have any activity planned for that quarter.	The activity will be implemented during Q4, to allow the secretariat to work out modalities on how to how carryout the impact assessment.
12.	Information sharing and Consultation on Human Trafficking with the Community, traditional authorities and relevant stakeholders	The Activity did not take place as it came to the attention of the committee that a bill on Human Trafficking will be tabled.	Committee to wait until bill is tabled.
13.	Study Visit to Rwanda/South Africa on the following: access to ICT, Health and Vulnerable Groups (benchmark on advance tech used in healthcare)	Committee took decision to replace visit to Rwanda as during the envisaged time period, the country would have elections. As for the visit to South Africa, it was cancelled because committee had previously visited that country. The committee resolved to undertake a visit to Ghana	Committee to undertake the visit to Ghana since a positive response was received from the parliament of Ghana to host the Committee delegation

Table 5: Activities not implemented

6. Findings

- 6.1 A total number of 19 activities were implemented out of a combined total of 32 planned activities by the respective Committees, which translated into 59.4%.
- 6.2 A total number of 13 activities were carried over to other quarters due to various reasons as stipulated in Table 5 above.
- 6.3 Even though, a number of activities were deferred to the other quarters, Committees demonstrated commitment and dedication in carrying out their responsibilities in respect of the planned activities. Committees' efforts were noted where government policies and programmes have been positively influenced after the Committees' intervention or inquiry. For instance:
- 6.3.1 The supervision of newly installed boreholes under the South African Draught Grant, that was done by persons employed by the company from South Africa which was contracted to undertake drilling of boreholes, has been transferred to regional supervisors of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. This was resultant of the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Habitat in that regard after the oversight visit to ascertain progress made on rural water supply.
- 6.3.2 The recommendation by the Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information Communication Technology to upgrade of youth centers, one in a specific financial year instead of making small amounts of budgetary allocation to cover all the centers was implemented by the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture, and hence the ministry is now focusing on upgrade being done per youth center per a financial year.
- 6.3.3 There is significant improvement in the issuing of national documents for the communities of Gam and Eiseb Blok. The committee on Security, Defense and legal affairs learned during their follow up visit in September 2018 after the public hearing that dealt with the issuance of national documents for these two communities whose members were

repatriated from Botswana that issuing of national documents was a challenges for people in Gam and Eiseb Block.

- 6.4 The meeting schedule for Committees was not sufficiently adhered to due to various reasons such as, the clashing activities planned by the National Council such as briefings by OMAs, lack of quorum as result of members attending the University of Namibia training of which the impact was profound during Quarter 2; this occurred when the House was in session from 06-11 August 2018. Another factor that was mentioned was that most of the members of the Women Caucus serve on other Committees.
- 6.5 It was noted that there is a need to allocate sufficient time to Committees during the planning session to avoid random planning and overlapping plans. This will allow Committees enough time to consult and align their activity plans to the National Council Strategic Plan, Vision 2030, Harambee Prosperity Plan, and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- 6.6 It was further highlighted by the Committees Chairpersons that funds allocated to Standing Committees are sufficient to carry out the activities of the Committees.
- 6.7 It was reported that in some cases O/M/As do not adhere to deadlines in providing feedback on implementation of recommendations.
- 6.8 The National Council does not have a formal structure to facilitate and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the House as the practice in other parliaments.
- 6.9 There is an unintended impediment on execution of committee activities that can be attributed to the absence of formation of sub-committees within Committees in order to delegate some of the tasked to a smaller group of members within a Committee.

- 6.10 During the Monitoring and Evaluation Session the Audit Committee expressed the need to undertake verifications in terms of oversight that was carried out by Committees to make comparison with what committee's report to the house as findings when they do oversight visits.
- 6.11 During the deliberations the with Committees, it became evident that the Audit Committee to which Standing Committees report on implementation of their activities, need some form of record keeping in respect of the number of motions tabled and adopted in the House as well as recommendations submitted O/M/As. Thus, there is a need to create a database, that will allow the Audit Committee to enquire from Standing Committees on the status of recommendations made through their reports.
- 6.12 In order for the Audit Committee to be in the know regarding reports with recommendations submitted by the Standing Committees to O/M/As, there is a need that it be provided with correspondence relating to submissions of such.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation exercise provided a platform for Committees to give feedback on implementation of activities and shared challenges encountered during the implementation phase. Although majority of activities were implemented in some cases, the number of delegations, especially on benchmark study visits had to be reduced due to financial constraints. The Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise further provided an opportunity to find common solutions in areas where there are challenges.
- 7.2 There is a need for the Audit committee to do on-site verification with regard to the Standing Committees' oversight activities, this would allow the Audit Committee to be in a better position to engage Committees regarding any follow up done regarding the oversight exercise.

- 7.3 It came out pertinently during the engagements with Committees; that as part of their oversight function, they need to set aside time for in depth inquiries on matters of interest to the public or that which falls within their ambit.
- 7.4 There is a need for the Committees' briefing sessions with O/M/As to be opened to the public in order keep them abreast on matters of public interest.

8. Recommendations

After deliberations, the Standing Committee on Audit made the following recommendations, that:

- 8.1 The Standing Committees should align their activity plans to National Council Strategic Plan, Vision 2030, Harambee Prosperity Plan, and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- 8.2 The Standing Committee to be allowed to meet (preferably a week) prior to the commencement of any Ordinary Session of the National Council, in order to dedicate time to consider the committee work.
- 8.3 Adequate time be allocated to the Committees during the annual planning session in order to have correctly reflected and segregated estimates for activities and to streamline activities for the purpose of coordination to avoid duplication.
- 8.4 In the absence of a formal structure to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations submitted to O/M/As, the National Council Steering Committee should ensure that reports with recommendations adopted by House are submitted to O/M/As and provide feedback on implementation to respective Committees to take the appropriate action where necessary.

- 8.5 The Standing Committees should avail to the Audit Committee and Steering Committee, all correspondence related to submission of recommendations to O/M/As for use as a basis for enquiry on the progress of implementation of recommendations submitted to O/M/As.
- 8.6 The Standing Committees to update the Audit Committee on the progress made by O/M/As in respect of the implementation of the recommendation prior to the commencement of the annual planning session of Committees.
- 8.7 The Audit Committee must create a database to keep track of number of motions tabled and adopted by the House as well as recommendations submitted to O/M/As.
- 8.8 The Standing Committees to call OMAs to appear to provide explanations in cases where no feedback on recommendations contained in Committees' reports submitted to OMAs was not received.
- 8.9 The Standing Committee Committees to embrace technology by utilizing WhatsApp platform for communication among members and convene virtual meetings; to take decisions on matters concerning Committees where conventional meeting was not possible, however, the cyber meetings should not replace the ordinary scheduled meetings.
- 8.10 The Standing Committees should consider the formation of sub-committees to be assigned to carry out specific tasks to promote division of labour within Committees. Sub-Committees so formed must report back findings to the main Committee.
- 8.11 The Audit Committee to undertake random spot checks where oversight activities were carried out by Committees.
- 8.12 The Standing Committees to undertake more enquiries on matters affecting livelihoods of the general public with specific emphasis on issues of regional concern.

- 8.13 The Standing Committees should endeavor to implement all deferred activities within the financial year in which they ought to be implemented.
- 8.14 The Standing Committees should consider setting up sub-committees in order to discharge their functions effectively and efficiently.
- 8.15 The Briefing Sessions of Committees with O/M/As to be open to the public.

Hon. L.T. Tobias

Chairperson: Audit Committee

Date: