



The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

**Report of the  
Australian Parliamentary  
Delegation to  
Mozambique and Kenya**

**11 to 23 July 2004**



**September 2006**

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# Membership of the Delegation

Mrs Kay Elson, MP (*Leader*)

Member for Forde (QLD)

Liberal Party of Australia

Ms Kelly Hoare, MP (*Deputy Leader*)

Member for Charlton (NSW)

Australian Labor Party

Senator Marise Payne

Senator for New South Wales

Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Alistair Sands (*Secretary*)

Department of the Senate

The delegation was accompanied by Mr David Elson.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Membership of the Delegation</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Objectives of the Delegation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>	
Introduction	7
Mozambique-Australia relations	7
Parliamentary relations	8
Bilateral trade	9
Aid and humanitarian issues	10
Education	12
Tourism	12
<b>KENYA</b>	
Kenya-Australia relations	15
Parliamentary relations	17
Refugee issues	18
Aid and humanitarian issues	19
Electoral issues	20
Trip to Lake Nakuru National Park	20
<b>Appendix 1</b>	
<b>DELEGATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>21</b>
Mozambique	21
Kenya	22



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**Kay Elson, MP**  
**Delegation Leader**



# Introduction

Each year, a number of federal parliamentary delegations visit other countries, while the Australian Parliament also hosts a number of visiting parliamentary delegations. The main objective of Australia's delegation program is to foster and maintain productive and friendly international relationships with other parliaments, parliamentary bodies and organisations. This objective is achieved through discussions and meetings between host and visiting parliamentarians which provide the opportunity for the exchange of ideas on topical issues.

Australian delegations also get to see first-hand the political, economic, social and cultural conditions in other countries. In this way the delegation program helps Australian parliamentarians to deepen their understanding of the context in which Australia's bilateral and regional relationships operate, at not only the official level but also in the spheres of business, education, tourism and so on.

This is the report of the Australian parliamentary delegation to Mozambique and Kenya in July 2004. The delegation's itinerary is set out in Appendix 1.

The delegation visited each country on a bilateral basis and, among other things, delivered invitations to the presiding officers of the national assemblies of Mozambique and Kenya for reciprocal delegation visits.

The delegation notes with pleasure that a delegation from the Kenyan National Assembly took up the invitation and visited Australia in December 2004. The members of the delegation hope that a similar visit by members of the Assembly of Mozambique may eventuate soon, in order to return the gracious hospitality extended to the delegation while in Mozambique and to foster the ties that members developed during the course of the visit.



# Objectives of the Delegation

Prior to its departure, the delegation agreed to the following objectives:

## **Mozambique**

- Renew links with the Assembly of the Republic
- Gain an appreciation of the major issues facing the country
- Gain an insight into Mozambique's policies on regional and transnational issues and
- Visit an AusAID funded aid project.

## **Kenya**

- Establish links with the National Assembly and gain an appreciation of their parliamentary processes
- Gain an appreciation of the key political, economic and social issues facing the country
- Gain an insight into Kenya's policies with regard to counter-terrorism, refugees, illegal movement of people and other transnational issues
- Explore the potential for expanding bilateral economic relations and
- Visit an AusAID funded aid project.

The Parliamentary Library's Information and Research Services section assisted with the formulation of these objectives.

The visits to both countries were successful and the delegation is confident that its objectives were met.



# MOZAMBIQUE

## Introduction

The delegation visited Mozambique from 11 to 16 July 2004. This was the second visit of an Australian parliamentary delegation to the country. The first visit occurred in April 1998.<sup>1</sup> This followed a visit in May 1997 of a Mozambican parliamentary delegation to Australia.

During the course of the visit the delegation met with members of the Mozambique Assembly who sit on the Assembly's international relations committee. The delegation also met with officials from the country's two main political parties, the ruling Frelimo party and the opposition Renmano party. These meetings helped to further political ties between the two countries.

The delegation enjoyed informative meetings with a number of government ministers and senior officials. These meetings covered topics ranging from tourism to education, science and technology. In addition, the delegation met with a number of important Australian and Mozambican businesspeople and government officials.

The delegation visited the BHP/Billiton Mozal aluminium smelter, which is at the heart of Mozambique's economic recovery. Mozal's imports of alumina from Western Australia dominate two-way trade between the two countries.

Reflecting the strong role of aid in the bilateral relationship, the delegation visited a number of humanitarian and educational projects funded by Australia. The delegation saw first hand the effort being made to address HIV/AIDS which looms as a major challenge to Mozambique and other African nations. The delegation also met with representatives of the World Food Program in Mozambique.

## Mozambique-Australia relations

Australia and Mozambique enjoy warm, if limited, relations. Until recently the relationship was based mainly on the provision of aid. However, the recent growth in exports has seen Australia become Mozambique's second largest trading partner behind South Africa.

Both countries are members of the Commonwealth. As a former Portuguese colony, Mozambique became the first member of the Commonwealth not to have been part of the British empire.

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1 *Report of the delegation to the 99<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference at Windhoek, Namibia and Bi-lateral visits to Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique (from 5-23 April 1998)*, July 1998.

Australia and Mozambique are also members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) which started in 1997 and aims to facilitate regional trade and investment.

Mozambique's emergence since its civil war (1975-1992) as an active participant in regional diplomacy and peace initiatives is also of interest to Australia. Mozambique has been particularly active in conflict resolution initiatives in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring Zimbabwe.

### **Parliamentary relations**

The delegation was pleased to resume parliamentary relations through its meeting with the First Vice-President of the National Assembly, Ms Veronica Macamo, and members of the Assembly's international relations committee.

The meeting discussed the structure and political composition of the Assembly, including its system of working groups. Some of the Assembly's working groups have dual chairmanships shared by the ruling and opposition parties, an approach that bears some resemblance to the government and non-government chairs of the dual references and legislation committee system in the Australian Senate.

Ms Macamo said the delegation was visiting at a crucial time with national elections for both the legislature and presidency scheduled for December 2004. With President Chissano stepping down after 17 years in office, the national election was expected to be an important transition point in Mozambique's political evolution. The meeting also noted the higher voter turn-out at recent local government elections. Ms Macamo said this was a promising sign for the December national elections. She also expressed Mozambique's gratitude for the extensive range of Australia's aid assistance.

Members of the delegation pointed to some of the parallels between Australia and Mozambique. Both countries have similar populations although Australia occupies a vastly larger landmass, and both face problems from widespread drought. Tourism is important to each country's economy. Both countries also play active roles in conflict resolution and multilateral forums in their respective regions.

The delegation discussed Australia's parliamentary system and various political parties, noting differences between the House of Representative and the Senate and members and senators. The delegation praised the Mozambique government for its active role in regional diplomacy and promotion of dialogue and cooperation rather than conflict.

Members of the delegation and the Assembly went on to discuss the role of women in each country's political system. The delegation heard of proposed changes to Mozambique's marriage law. These aim to overcome barriers to equality, some of which are embedded in lower level laws (relating to banking and residency registration, for instance), in a society traditionally dominated by men. The delegation was told that while progress had been made in overcoming some barriers the

government and legislators had to be careful not to interfere too much with Mozambican culture or tradition, otherwise the legislation would not be effective.

The delegation visited the party headquarters of both the ruling party, Frelimo, and the main opposition party, Renamo. Discussions with officials of each party helped to strengthen the delegation's appreciation of Mozambique's political and electoral system and party structures. These discussions also provided an insightful overview of the lead up to the December national elections.

The delegation notes that the December 2004 elections saw Frelimo's majority in the National Assembly increase from 133 to 160 of 250 seats. The ruling party's successor to outgoing President Chissano, Mr Amando Guebuza, won over 63 per cent of the vote in the presidential election.

### **Bilateral trade**

Trade has grown spectacularly but heavily in Australia's favour since the first visit of an Australian parliamentary delegation to Mozambique in 1998. Australian exports jumped from \$14.9 million in 1998 to \$223 million in 2003, rising to \$382 million in 2005. Australia is now second among Mozambique's trading partners. By contrast, imports from Mozambique have remained under \$1 million per year since the late 1990s.

Alumina from Worsley in Western Australia for the BHP-Billiton Mozal aluminium smelter has fuelled Australia's export growth and dominates the trading relationship. Alumina exports rose from about \$200 million in 2003 to \$359 million in 2005.

Opened in September 2000, Mozal is majority owned by BHP-Billiton with the Mozambique government also holding a stake in it. Apart from local job creation, aluminium is now one of Mozambique's major exports and is helping to drive the country's economic recovery.

The delegation visited the Mozal smelter which is outside the capital, Maputo. It inspected the recently expanded smelting works and met the newly appointed managing director, Mr Carlos Mesquita and staff of Mozal. The delegation heard about the smelter's expansion and operations, relations with the union, career development for local staff and programs for assisting local communities.

As women are central to the economic wellbeing of many communities in Mozambique, the delegation was interested in the smelter's strategies for promoting women's employment and career development. It heard that Mozal's target for increasing yearly the proportion of women in its workforce is hampered by a lack of younger women with adequate education, a problem that reflects deeper cultural biases which was touched upon in the delegation's talks with education authorities.

The delegation also toured by the local community near Mozal and saw the nearby Belulane Industrial Park.

The opportunity to meet a number of senior government officials and leading business people, including Australian company representatives, also gave the delegation a deeper understanding of the business and trade opportunities that the liberalisation of Mozambique's economy offers.

The delegation saw signs of economic vibrancy around Maputo. Numerous construction projects around the city and an emerging bustling retail sector pointed to the economy's regeneration.

The delegation also visited Maputo Port where a joint European consortium is working with the government to operate and rehabilitate the port. This visit highlighted both the government's market driven reforms and the hurdles in the way of economic growth. Mr Alec Don, chief executive of the Maputo Port Development Company, told the delegation that the port is strategically located close to Johannesburg and also Zimbabwe. But he said that reform of road and rail infrastructure was critical if the port were to be competitive. Mr Don observed that transport costs would have implications for Australian business interests hoping to establish operations in Mozambique.

### **Aid and humanitarian issues**

Traditionally Australia's aid program to Mozambique has been the main plank of the bilateral relationship. Mozambique has had a prominent position as a 'focus country' in Australia's aid program to Africa. Aid has gone towards scholarships, Newcastle disease control, mine clearing, capacity building programs, non government organisation (NGO) activities and drought relief assistance. Elements of this aid reflect the recent shift in aid delivery from bilateral projects to assistance through local institutions, multilateral organisations and NGOs as well as scholarships.

The delegation was eager to see examples of Australian aid working on the ground, as well as to gain an appreciation of the some of the issues and challenges Mozambique faces.

The delegation visited two food for work programs in the bushlands outside of Maputo. These programs are being funded through World Food Program (WFP) and AusAID. The first involved a cashew nut tree program conducted by women. The cashew tree is drought tolerant but the delegation learnt that the severity of Mozambique's most recent drought had required the planting of new trees. Local women were taking responsibility for the cashew nut tree program as they are the main food winners and primary carers in rural society.

The delegation also took part in a WFP school feeding program in Tenga, an area that suffers from drought and severe water shortages. The delegation heard that providing food ensures that students attend school on time. Although attendance varies across age groups, since starting the feeding program school performance has improved markedly.

While in the area the delegation visited the headquarters of the Momba district (which encompasses Tenga) and met the district administrator, Mr Zeferino Mucavele and other district officials. These officials told the delegation of how the area is particularly prone to natural disasters, including floods as well as drought. Later the delegation was shown where floods in 2000 had risen five metres or more, wiping out agricultural infrastructure and crops.

The delegation conducted an official handover of a water bore AusAID funded as part of Australia's drought relief assistance. Delegation members then took part with local women in festive dancing to celebrate the occasion. This special moment gave the delegation a moving insight into traditional Mozambican culture.

The delegation was particularly concerned to visit HIV/AIDS projects and assess the impact of the crisis on Mozambique. The delegation visited a number of urban HIV/AIDS projects in Maputo, including the Medecin Sans Frontieres anti-retroviral (ARV) support and mother-to-child prevention programs at the Primeriro de Maio Health Centre.

The delegation also visited Kindlimuka ("wake up" in Changaan), an NGO which provides programs including home based care with WFP food, care of orphans and income generating projects. Kindlimuka staff told the delegation that it is part of an NGO network representing the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and working to combat the stigmatization of those infected. The staff mentioned they expected the National Assembly would support recently proposed anti-discrimination legislation.

The delegation saw firsthand the ravages of the crisis on families when it visited a local slum and met a grandmother caring for the orphans of one of her children. It then visited Casa de Algeria ("House of Happiness"), a home the Mother Theresa order and WFP support, which provides food for children and ARVs for children and mothers.

All members of the delegation were struck by the courage and commitment of the staff involved in helping those affected by HIV/AIDS. The delegation formed the view that, despite apparently overwhelming odds, the example set by those working on the ground offers hope of making headway in addressing the crisis. The delegation believes that Australian assistance should continue to be focused on local initiatives at the community level.

To help get an overview of the humanitarian-aid issues facing Mozambique, the delegation met with Ms Angela Van Rynbach, the WFP country representative. This meeting also involved local staff from the AusAID office in Maputo and Ms Alexa Bullen, an Australian volunteer working in the capital. Ms Rynbach told the delegation that she had observed real changes in Mozambique over the three years she had been there. In her view the government was strongly committed to tackling the HIV/AIDS crisis. While progress was being made in some areas, the delegation also heard that logistics problems continue to hamper the delivery of assistance to areas of high need.

## **Education**

As mentioned above, education assistance in the form of Australian Development Scholarships is a key component of Australia's new framework for delivering aid to Mozambique and other sub Saharan African states. These scholarships provide opportunities for Mozambican students to pursue postgraduate study in fields such as education, public health, rural development and public administration.

The delegation met with Ms Lidia Brito, the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology and some of her senior staff. The meeting discussed the structure of Mozambique's education system from school through to tertiary studies. Particular focus was given to measures being adopted to address gender balance issues at the primary school level so that more girls graduated through to university qualifications.

The delegation visited the Eduardo Mondlane University and met the rector, Dr Brazao Mazula, and senior academic staff. Dating back to the colonial era, the university is the oldest and biggest public education institution in Mozambique. The delegation conducted an official handover of books for the university library.

The delegation also met with students who had graduated under the in-country scholarship scheme funded by AusAID. Members of the delegation were very impressed with the clear and definite views that the students presented on ways by which education assistance could be improved. One proposal that was put to the delegation was for AusAID to examine ways by which students accessing scholarships could be allowed a greater opportunity to select subjects of interest rather than having their research determined by academic staff. The delegation would welcome AusAID exploring with its counterparts in Mozambique approaches that would enable students on Australian scholarships to get the maximum educational benefit of their choosing from the program.

## **Tourism**

Tourism is one of the fastest expanding sectors of Mozambique's economy. It is an area where Australia is providing assistance and which offers opportunities for Australian business.

The delegation met with Mr Fernando Sumbana, the Minister for Tourism and Dr Vitoria Diogo, the ministry's permanent secretary and other senior ministry officials. The minister expressed his gratitude for Australia's assistance in helping the country's fledgling tourism industry, particularly with the development of a national tourism policy and framework.

He observed that since the end of the civil war in 1992 the tourism sector has grown hand in hand with the peace process and re-establishment of order throughout the country. The ministry had sent teams to regional areas to get local community input into tourism initiatives.

The minister also discussed the tourism impact of the new Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Mozambique and the governments of South Africa and Zimbabwe established the park in 2000. The 100 000 km<sup>2</sup> wild life park cuts across the borders of the three countries and includes parts of the Kruger National Park. The minister said that harmonising arrangements across three governments had presented challenges but overall the park had brought benefits to Mozambique, particularly for the local community, private enterprise and development of much needed infrastructure.

The minister and officials indicated that Australian expertise could be of assistance in helping place Mozambique on the world map as a tourist destination and with staff development and training. Members of the delegation noted that Australia had invested heavily overseas to promote the country's tourism credentials. Members also referred to hospitality and tourism training institutions in Australia which Mozambican students could attend, possibly under the AusAID scholarship scheme.



# KENYA

The delegation visited Kenya from 17 to 23 July 2004. It held extensive meetings at Kenya's National Assembly and also met with the ministers for home and foreign affairs. Discussion at these meetings ranged from parliamentary matters through to recent changes in the composition of the government and issues related to, among other things, the two countries' approaches to refugees, regional security and the war on terror.

Refugee issues also featured highly in the delegation's meetings with country representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Office for Migration (IOM). The delegation travelled to north Kenya to visit the Kakuma refugee camp which constitutes the largest source of resettlements under Australia's humanitarian program.

The delegation visited a number of Australian funded aid projects in the areas of women's health and good governance. Reflecting its strong interest in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS the delegation visited a counselling centre for women with AIDS in a semi-rural slum area outside Nairobi. The delegation also held discussions with members of the board of the Electoral Commission of Kenya and the Institute for Education in Democracy. These discussions complemented those the delegation had with Kenyan politicians and provided a deeper insight into the electoral framework underpinning Kenya's political system.

## **Kenya-Australia relations**

The delegation's visit confirmed the view that Australia and Kenya enjoy a warm and growing bilateral relationship. Cooperation at the multilateral level in the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) has strengthened bilateral relations. Kenya played, for example, a role alongside Australia in East Timor, one of our primary areas of strategic interest, contributing to UN peacekeeping operations after that nation's troubled transition to independence.

As with Mozambique, Kenya's active involvement in regional peace initiatives is of interest to Australia. Long regarded among the most politically stable African states, Kenya is one of the few countries in its region not to have been embroiled in external conflict. It is, however, ringed by warfare on its borders. Apart from Tanzania in the south, all of Kenya's neighbours are fighting civil and/or external wars or experiencing border tension. These conflicts have led to rising flows of refugees and displaced persons into Kenya, placing strain on its own resources and presenting internal security challenges.

Kenya plays an important role in Australia's offshore humanitarian refugee program. Not only is it the source country of the largest number of refugees accepted under the program but Nairobi also serves as the hub for DIMA's processing of all African refugees coming to Australia.

Unlike Australia, Kenya has experienced anti-Western terrorist attacks on its soil. A truck bomb blew up the US embassy in Nairobi in 1998 killing over 200 people, most of them Kenyans. In October 2002 there was an attack on a Mombasa tourist resort and an attempt to shoot down an Israeli charter flight. Members of the delegation saw first-hand at their hotel in Nairobi and at official buildings around the capital the heightened security measures Kenya has adopted since these terrorist attacks.

The above issues featured highly in the delegation's talks with government ministers and members of a number of the National Assembly's committees.

For its meeting with the newly appointed Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Mwakwere, Australia's outgoing High Commissioner, Mr Paul Comfort accompanied the delegation. The meeting provided the occasion for the high commissioner and delegation to raise with the minister Australia's key interests: regional conflicts and their impact on refugee flows; overseas aid and the Kenyan government's anti-corruption drive; and Australia's commercial interests.

The minister spoke warmly of the close bilateral relationship, noting the Commonwealth connection and thanking Australia for its aid program. He pointed to the parallels between the instability on Kenya's borders and the crises experienced in Australia's region in Bougainville, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. The minister said that Kenya's security outlook was shaped by the expectation of long term regional instability, noting that the conflict in Sudan had been running for 14 years.

For Kenya this means continuing insecurity in its border provinces caused by the infiltration of unchecked numbers of small arms and roving bands of bandits. The minister said it will also involve an ongoing refugee burden requiring Kenya to devote resources to the long term management of refugee camps. The high commissioner commented that in 2003 Australia had taken its largest refugee intake ever with most coming from camps in Kenya.

The delegation's visit coincided with media reporting of donor concerns about the war against corruption. The minister said that fighting corruption was the government's number one priority and he pointed to a range of initiatives including the Anti-Corruption Act and the requirement for all public servants to disclose their wealth annually. The high commissioner expressed Australia's confidence in the government's efforts, noting that eradicating corruption was an important step for attracting foreign investment from countries such as Australia.

The high commissioner also accompanied the delegation to its visit with the Minister for Home Affairs, Mrs Linah Kilimo. Refugee issues again dominated the discussion. The High Commissioner noted Australia's close working relationship with the Kenyan government on refugees, saying that Nairobi served as Australia's largest offshore

refugee processing centre. He said Australia focused on only those refugees most at risk, while it also sought to help others who could be resettled in their home countries.

The minister spoke of her government's increased efforts to address refugee issues. Mrs Kilimo mentioned in particular legislation before Kenya's National Assembly that would, among other things, establish a department for refugee affairs. Referring to the delegation's scheduled visit to the Kakuma refugee camp, she said that Kakuma's size made it one of the largest settlements in Kenya. Among the challenges such large camps present the government is friction between local people and refugees because conditions in the camps are often better than those of local communities.

### **Parliamentary relations**

The delegation enjoyed a series of highly informative meetings with Kenyan parliamentarians including the Speaker of the National Assembly. Unlike Australia's directly elected bicameral federal parliament, the Kenyan assembly is unicameral comprising mainly elected members and a small number of appointed members. On the other hand, its committee system was modelled partly on Australia's and possesses inquiry powers similar to those of Australian parliamentary committees.

The meeting with the Parliamentary Service Commission provided an insight into not only Kenya's political system and parliamentary structure but also the administration of the National Assembly. The commission shares functions roughly equivalent to the Australian Government's Department of Parliamentary Services but is run by parliamentarians to ensure the parliament controls its own affairs.

The commissioners, who are elected parliamentarians, explained to the delegation recent efforts to modernise the assembly's operations including the introduction of electronic voting. They expressed an interest in Australia's remuneration tribunal and bicameral parliament, particularly the role and work of the Senate. Delegation members outlined the importance of having an upper house as a check on executive power and body of review, both at the federal and state level.

The delegation's meeting with the assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration, National Security and Local Authorities offered a wide ranging view of topical issues in Kenya. The committee's brief ranges from refugees, terrorism, national disasters through to lotteries and gambling administration. It also oversees the offices of the president and the vice president. Discussion focused largely on Kenya's regional security environment and the war on terror. The delegation learnt that the committee had visited Washington DC for official discussions on terrorism and as part of an attempt to correct the impact on Kenya's tourism industry of negativity following the terrorist attacks on Kenyan soil in 1998 and 2002. The delegation, in turn, discussed Australia's experience of terrorism following the Bali bombings in 2002.

With counter-terrorism bills before the committee its members were keen to hear of Australia's approach to the war on terror. Delegation members explained the large body of counter-terrorism laws Australia had adopted, particularly mentioning the

significant work done by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on these matters.

Similar matters were canvassed when the delegation met the assembly's Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations. Committee members provided the delegation with a detailed perspective on the regional conflicts in Sudan, Somalia and between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The delegation heard that in addition to the influx of refugees, conflict in these countries had led to uncontrolled small arms proliferation and banditry in Kenya's border areas.

Committee and delegation members also exchanged views on each country's regional peace keeping efforts. The delegation heard about the role played by Kenya's special envoys in the conflicts in Sudan and Somalia. The delegation in turn discussed the parallels with Australia's military and police deployments to the Solomon Islands and East Timor. The discussion then moved onto each country's military involvement in different theatres in the Middle East, with Kenyan troops in Syria and Australian military units operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.

All of the delegation's meetings with these parliamentary committees were hosted in the assembly's main committee meeting room. This charming room displays on its walls photographs of many of the parliament houses of the world. The delegation discovered that in Australia's case the photograph is of the old Temporary Parliament House which has not housed the parliament since 1988. The delegation believes that the situation should be corrected with the Presiding Officers encouraged to consider presenting an official photo of the 'new' Australian Parliament House as a gift to the National Assembly.

The delegation enjoyed a lively and informative meeting with the Speaker of the Assembly, the Honourable Francis Ole Kaparo. The speaker provided a richly detailed history of the evolution of Kenya's political and parliamentary system. He pointed to some of the teething issues the National Rainbow Coalition had experienced on coming to power in 2002, after the 39 year rule of the Kenyan African National Union. The speaker also said that in developing the assembly's committee system Kenya had looked to Australia's parliamentary committees and standing orders. He also complimented the delegation on Australia's new parliament house.

### **Refugee issues**

The delegation enjoyed an informative meeting about refugee issues with representatives from the UNHCR and IOM at a luncheon hosted by the high commissioner. The discussion reinforced what the delegation had already learnt from its meetings with Kenyan ministers and parliamentary committees in relation to the magnitude of the refugee problem facing the country.

While representatives praised the Kenyan government for not shying away from the refugee challenge, they also told the delegation that durable solutions to refugee issues will not come easily. Prospects for resettling Sudanese refugees, for instance, are limited. Southern Sudan lacks the infrastructure to absorb large numbers of

repatriations. The delegation also heard that there was no guarantee that peace agreements within the region would hold. This warning has proven prescient as the region has experienced continued volatility since the delegation's visit.

The meeting with these international representatives helped prepare the delegation for its visit to the Kakuma refugee camp. Kakuma is the second largest refugee camp in Africa holding 87 000 people. It is located in northern Kenya near the Sudan border. It comprises mainly Sudanese refugees, along with other nationalities from neighbouring countries. For Australia the camp is the largest source of resettlements under our humanitarian program.

UNHCR and IOM officers briefed the delegation and escorted it around the camp. The delegation observed recent arrivals being fingerprinted for identification purposes and a cultural orientation session for Somali Bantu refugees preparing for resettlement in the United States. It visited the camp's safe haven for women and children at risk. The Jesuit Refugee Services run the safe haven, providing counselling and education as well as protection. The delegation heard that internal security is critical as the incidence of violence, rape, child abduction and revenge attacks is high. The delegation's military escort to and from the camp also highlighted the risk of bandit attacks in areas bordering Kenya's war torn neighbours.

While at the camp the delegation met with the Kakuma "Chairladies" or women's leaders. One of the Chairladies, Ms Florence Acan Odwar, made a moving speech on behalf of the group to the delegation. Ms Odwar spoke of the challenges women face in the camp, such as violence, cramped conditions, food shortages and the particular concerns of women whose husbands had been killed in war. She also spoke of the women's pride in their achievements, saying they had taken on leadership and governance roles.

In Nairobi, the delegation leader, Mrs Kay Elson MP, participated in a cultural orientation program for refugees and special humanitarian cases bound for resettlement in Australia. The program's purpose is to provide a realistic picture of life in Australia, prepare refugees for the diversity of Australian society and identify skills they will need upon arrival. Mrs Elson answered questions from the group on living and working in Australia, emphasising the importance of perseverance in job seeking and studying for qualifications. Mrs Elson also presented a range of books on Australia to assist the orientation program for Australian resettlements.

### **Aid and humanitarian issues**

The delegation visited the 102 year old Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi. AusAID is working with the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) at the hospital on a project to enhance Kenya's capacity to prevent, repair and support women with obstetric fistulae. The delegation heard that there is a high incidence of obstetric fistulae in east Africa, a problem that not only affects the reproductive health of women and girls but can also threaten their lives. The delegation inspected a clinic dealing with the issue and met women recovering from operations to repair the

problem. The delegation also presented a cheque of \$45 000 to AMREF to assist the project.

Continuing on from its interest in HIV/AIDS issues in Mozambique, the delegation visited the office of the Kenya Network of Women with AIDS (KENWA). KENWA has received funding through Australia's aid program. The delegation was briefed on KENWA's work by its executive director, Ms Asunta Wagura. Ms Wagura told the delegation that, among other things, KENWA is working to help infected women overcome the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease.

Ms Wagura accompanied the delegation to one of KENWA's counselling centres in the Kinduti slum area on the outskirts of Nairobi. The visit was marked by a spectacular street dance by local people and a play put on by infected women at the centre.

As with its visits to clinics and counselling centres in Mozambique, the delegation's meeting with Ms Wagura and other KENWA officers highlighted the extraordinary work being done at the ground level by grassroots and other non government organisations in the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

### **Electoral issues**

As part of its interest in Kenya's political system, the delegation visited the Institute for Education in Democracy and the board of the Electoral Commission of Kenya. The institute told the delegation of the work it has done to improve the integrity of Kenya's electoral role by identifying deceased persons that remain on local voting registers. It also discussed its civic voter education program with marginalised groups and efforts to deploy mobile polling stations to remote and nomadic communities. The delegation presented a cheque for \$157 998 to help fund the institute's work with the Electoral Commission to strengthen the voter registration process and conduct voter education.

The meeting with the board of the Electoral Commission provided an opportunity for some of its members to relay to the delegation their impressions of Australia's electoral system based on a recent visit to Australia. These members were impressed by Australia's program of school visits to parliament house. The board also expressed its thanks to the Australian Electoral Commission for its assistance with capacity building.

### **Meeting with Mr Jim Terrie, International Crisis Group**

Senator Payne and the delegation secretary met with Mr Jim Terrie, at the time a senior analyst for military and security issues with the International Crisis Group (ICG), based in Nairobi. Mr Terrie, a former Australian army officer, covered African issues for the ICG, particularly security matters concerning the countries neighbouring Kenya.

Mr Terrie discussed the ICG's research and advocacy work on conflict and security issues in Africa. His assessment of the severe problems characterising the conflicts in Sudan and Somalia complemented the official briefings the delegation received in Kenya. Mr Terrie also gave a detailed analysis of security issues in northern Uganda, saying the low level internal conflict in that area was common to many African states and had implications for Kenya but was not receiving adequate attention from the international community.

### **Trip to Lake Nakuru National Park**

On arriving in Kenya the delegation spent a weekend at Lake Nakuru National Park. The delegation marvelled at the park's rich wildlife, especially the abundance of the famed pink flamingos that gather on Lake Nakuru. The delegation greatly appreciated the opportunity to spend time in the park before embarking on its official program in Nairobi and elsewhere in Kenya.



## Appendix 1

# DELEGATION PROGRAM

### **Mozambique**

#### **Sunday 11 July**

2000 Arrive Maputo

#### **Monday 12 July**

1015 Tour of Maputo

1500 Visit to Maputo port

#### **Tuesday 13 July**

0730 Day trip to Moamba, Maputo province to visit World Food Program (WFP) and AusAID projects

0830 Visit WFP food for work program in Tenga

0900 Visit Tenga school, WFP school feeding program

1100 Visit Moamba village, WFP food for work program and food distribution

1200 Call on Signor Zeferino Mucavele, Moamba District Administrator

1300 Official handover of two boreholes funded by AusAID

1630 Call on Signora Lidia Brito, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology

#### **Wednesday 14 July**

0815 Visit to Primeiro de Maio Health Centre

0930 Visit to Kindlimuka head office

1100 Visit to Casa de Alegria (House of Happiness)

1430 Visit to the Eduardo Mondlane University

**Thursday 15 July**

- 0900 Meeting with Signora Veronica Macamo, First Vice-President of Mozambique's *Assembleia* and the Assembly's international relations committee
- 1100 Call on Signor Fernando Sumbana, Minister for Tourism
- 1400 Visit to the Mozambican Aluminium Smelter (Mozal)
- 1900 Dinner with Australian company representatives in Maputo and prominent Mozambicans with links to Australia

**Friday 16 July**

- 0900 Call on Frelimo party headquarters
- 1030 Call on Renmano party headquarters
- 1400 Depart Maputo for Johannesburg

**Saturday 17 July**

- 0930 Depart Johannesburg for Nairobi

**Kenya**

**Saturday 17 July**

- 1440 Arrive Nairobi
- 1700 Arrive Lake Naivasha

**Sunday 18 July**

- 0700 Depart for Lake Nakuru National Park
- 1800 Return to Nairobi
- 1930 Dinner and briefing at High Commissioner's residence

**Monday 19 July**

- 1030 Meeting with Parliamentary Service Commission, National Assembly
- 1200 Meeting with Departmental Committee on Administration, National Security and Local Authorities
- 1530 Meeting with Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations

**Tuesday 20 July**

- 0800 Call on the Hon. Ali Makwere, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 0900 Call on the Hon. Francis ole Kaparo, Speaker of the National Assembly
- 1030 Call on the Hon. Linah Kilimo, Minister for Home Affairs
- 1230 Lunch hosted by High Commissioner with UNHCR and IOM representatives
- 1500 Visit Kenyatta National Hospital
- 1930 Official dinner hosted by Speaker of the National Assembly

**Wednesday 21 July**

- 0700 Depart Nairobi for Lodwar
- 1030 Arrive Kakuma refugee camp
- 1600 Depart Kakuma refugee camp
- 1930 Arrive Nairobi

**Thursday 22 July**

- 0930 Visit Kenyan Association of Women with AIDS (KENWA)
- 1040 Visit KENWA centre Kitanduti
- 1400 Visit Institute for Education in Democracy
- 1630 Visit Board of the Electoral Commission of Kenya
- 1930 Formal dinner at High Commissioner's residence
- 2300 Senator Payne, Mrs Kelly MP and delegation secretary depart Nairobi

**Friday 23 July**

- 0930 Mrs Elson MP visit IOM Nairobi office and observe Australian cultural orientation program for refugees and special humanitarian cases for resettlement in Australia
- 2300 Mrs Elson MP depart Nairobi