

M—the Muslim

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OPINION

Sharawe Report: More needs to be done to uplift Muslims

The 2008 report made 73 recommendations touching on key issues, ranging from citizenship, security, access to justice, land ownership, education, representation, and development & investment...

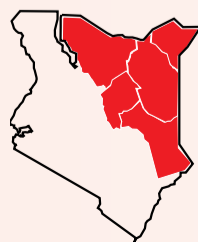


WHAT KENYAN MUSLIMS WANT

EXPEDITE PROCESSING & ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS/CERTIFICATES



1 To Muslim communities, specifically those in urban villages including Kibera, Majengo, Kariakor in Nairobi, Kambi Somali in Eldoret, Mjini Village in Murang'a, Manyatta Arab in Kisumu etc.



MARSHAL PLAN FOR THE NORTHERN KENYA FRONTIER COUNTIES

2

Under the proposed Marshal Plan, the government was called upon to, among other things, invest in the development of road infrastructure in Northern Kenya, connect the region to the national power grid and provide the necessary incentives for private sector investment and development in Muslim areas

This is what needs to be done to uplift Muslims



For many years, the leadership of the Muslim community in Kenya has been relentless in asking the government to address issues affecting the Muslim faithful in order to fulfill the constitutional promise of freedom of religion and belief.

The reason Muslims have always sought the government's indulgence in matters affecting them is because, unlike other religions, Islam is much more than spirituality—Islam is a way of life, and that way of life spans across matters of worship, health, diet, education, finance, security, family life, law and governance, wealth creation and investment, science and technology, etc.

The iftar dinner occasionally hosted at State House during the holy month of Ramadhan has always presented the best opportunity for Muslims to directly engage the President on the issues Muslims would like the government to address—to a significant degree, the government has listened to and acted positively towards the grievances of the Muslim community.

However, as much as Muslims appreciate the positive responses that have come out of the State House iftar dinners, those responses have been piecemeal, not comprehensive.

To this end, for a comprehensive response, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims pleads for the adoption of the 2008 report of the Presidential Special Action Committee to Address Specific Concerns of the Muslim Community. This report is commonly known as the Sharawe Report because the said Presidential Special Action Committee was appointed by President Mwai Kibaki and chaired by Eng. Abdullahi Sharawe.

From the standpoint of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, the Sharawe Report was the most comprehensive report to ever address issues affecting the Muslim community in Kenya because that committee was the most broad-based, most inclusive and most professional because of the caliber of people who were appointed to the committee and because of the countrywide consultations that the committee made before coming up with the Report.

When the Sharawe committee completed its task, it arrived at the conclusion that the issues raised by the Muslim community were credible and deserving of serious redress.

The Report made 73 recommendations touching on key issues, ranging from citizenship, security, access to justice, land ownership, education, representation, and development & investment.

It is important to point out that the Sharawe Report

was presented in 2008 before the advent of the 2010 Constitution, hence some of its recommendations guided the resolutions of the Bomas constitutional conference that yielded the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

For example, the Sharawe Report's recommendation No.18 called for the harmonization of the Citizenship Act, the Immigration Act and the Registration of Persons Act, which recommendation gave us Chapter 3 of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya where the whole issue of citizenship was harmonized, including the right to acquire passports and other registration or identification documents.

In view of the foregoing, the Muslim community lauds President William Ruto for his administrative action that saw to the implementation of recommendation No.19 of the report. Recommendation No.19 of the Sharawe Report called for the abolition of the Vetting Committee for Kenyan Muslims at the Department of Immigration and Civil Registration when applying for passports and national IDs respectively.

However, President Ruto's decision to abolish the special vetting committees for Muslims was met with criticism and admonishment from various quarters, terming the President's move "reckless" and a "threat to national security."

But there is need to set the record straight by pointing out that President Ruto's directive to abolish the special vetting committees for Muslims and all its attendant processes was NOT a whimsical decision for political expediency as his

Muslim youth in Mombasa submitting their details for processing during the application of the National Identification Card exercise.



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critics have portrayed—instead it was a recommendation of the Sharawe Report made way back in 2008 before Mr Ruto became President and, as already pointed out, the Sharawe Report is a product of a broad-based, highly participatory and very professional process undertaken by a Committee appointed by President Mwai Kibaki. So, a lot of thinking, advice and considerations were invested before the Committee came up with that recommendation.

It is also important to point out that recommendation No.12 of the Sharawe Report which called for the granting of citizenship to the Nubian, Makonde, Wachangamwe and Washirazi communities who, until then, were technically stateless communities living in Kenya was implemented by President Uhuru Kenyatta who granted citizenship to these communities hence paving the way for them to acquire Kenyan ID cards.

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, which is the custodian of the Kenya Hajj Mission, also thanks President Ruto's administration for implementing recommendation No.8 of the Sharawe Report which called for the establishment of a Special Desk at the Immigration Department for fast-tracked issuance of passports to Muslims intending to travel to perform the Hajj.

Today, the special desk at the Immigration Department is operational and has made it easy and efficient for processing passport applications for those who plan to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj.

But as much as the Muslim community lauds and appreciates the commendable efforts made by President Ruto's and President Kenyatta's administrations to implement recommendations of the Sharawe Report, there are other key recommendations of the report that the government has paid lip-service to—key of these recommendations are in the area of land and investment.

Under recommendation No.45, the Sharawe Report called on the government to expedite the processing and issuance of title deeds or certificates of title to Muslim communities, specifically those in urban villages including Kilbera, Majengo, Kariakor in Nairobi, Kambi Somali in Eldoret, Mjini Village in Murang'a, Manyatta Arab in Kisumu etc.

And under recommendation No.46, the Sharawe Report called on the government to undertake a special land adjudication programme in Lamu in order to issue titles to indigenous Muslim inhabitants.

With regard to investment and development, the Sharawe Report under recommendation 62, 63, 66 and 67, called on the government to develop a Marshal Plan with adequate budgetary allocations for predominantly Muslim inhabited regions to address historical marginalization and under development.

Under the proposed Marshal Plan, the government was called upon to, among other things, invest in the development of road infrastructure in Northern Kenya, connect the Northern Kenya region to the national power grid and provide the necessary incentives for private sector investment and development in Muslim areas.

It is encouraging to point out that devolution and the establishment of the equalization fund under the 2010 constitution have played a key role to spur investment and ensure the kind of development that opens up the Northern region of Kenya. On this point, the Supreme Council calls upon duty bearers in the said region to utilize devolution funds in a productive manner that benefits the people of the region and in the furtherance of the recommendations of the Sharawe Report.

However, there is still need for investment by the national government in order to fully realize the call for a Marshal Plan for Northern Kenya region. This will certainly require targeted investment in security apparatus so as to guarantee the incentives for private sector investment and development.

Essentially, the Sharawe Report remains the guiding star in addressing issues affecting the Muslim community in Kenya.

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Eid Mubarak to our esteemed Readers and Partners

M—the Muslim

SUPKEM visits Kenchic processing facility on halal familiarization tour

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) was recently invited to a familiarization tour of Kenchic Thika Processing facility along the Nairobi-Garissa highway.

Kenchic is East Africa's leading integrated poultry business, dedicated to producing safe, high-quality chicken products and day-old chicks while supporting farmers, strengthening the poultry sector, and delivering healthy protein to Kenyan households.

Kenchic invited the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims-Halal Certifying Department alongside other Muslim related media for a familiarization tour at the plant during this Ramadhan season.

According to John Kamau-Head of Logistics and Stores, Halal is the bedrock of Kenchic products and adamant that it is not negotiable. He notes that Kenyans; regardless of religious affiliation, are fast becoming Halal conscious and adopting it as a lifestyle. He explains how they do it.

"Food safety is central to Kenchic's operations. The company adheres to strict international standards and certifications, including FSSC 22000, ensuring that products meet the highest global food safety requirements. Every stage of production is monitored through rigorous biosecurity protocols, veterinary oversight, and laboratory testing to ensure products are safe, fresh, and free from

harmful pathogens."

Further, all Kenchic products are Halal certified by ensuring that processing and handling comply with Islamic dietary requirements. This certification is part of Kenchic's broader commitment to integrity, transparency, and respect for the diverse needs of Kenyan consumers.

Through its integrated Farm-to-Fork traceability system, Kenchic is able to track every chicken back through the entire production chain, from the final product to the bird it came from, the egg it hatched from, and the parent stock. This level of traceability provides consumers with confidence in the safety, authenticity, and quality of Kenchic products.

Mr. Kamau also says that through Kenchic's integrated Farm-to-Fork traceability system, it is able to track every chicken back through the entire production chain, from the final product to the bird it came from, the egg it hatched from, and the parent stock. This level of traceability provides consumers with confidence in the safety, authenticity, and quality of Kenchic products.

Thus, Kenchic maintains an in-house ISO-certified laboratory that tests chicks and chicken products for pathogens and antibiotic residues. The company also follows a strict antimicrobial usage policy where antibiotics are only used under veterinary prescription and never for



Above-Chicken in the processing stage at The Kenchic Plant in Thika.

Kenyans; regardless of religious affiliation, are fast becoming Halal conscious and adopting it as a lifestyle. Thus at Kenchic, Halal is not negotiable...

routine prevention or growth promotion.

On animal welfare, Mr Kamau says that Kenchic operates under internationally recognized animal welfare standards and integrates humane practices throughout its operations. Birds are raised in environments designed to support their health and wellbeing, including controlled housing, proper nutrition, veterinary care, and humane handling during transport and processing.

The company also invests in innovations that improve animal welfare, such as improved housing systems, environmental monitoring, and advanced vaccination technologies that protect birds from major diseases while reducing stress and suffering.

Meanwhile, Kenchic plays a critical role in supporting farmers and ensuring food security. "We play a key role in strengthening Kenya's poultry industry by working closely with farmers across the country. The company supplies high-quality day-old chicks, provides technical training and veterinary support, and equips farmers with knowledge on best practices in poultry farming.

Through farmer training

programs, poultry centres, and partnerships with development organizations, Kenchic supports thousands of farmers in improving productivity, maintaining biosecurity, and accessing reliable markets."

Similarly, Brenda Njagi-the Factory Manager also disclosed that besides chicken products, Kenchic has since last year began diversifying through the introduction of beef related products among them- packed KenBeef meat portions and KenBeef sausages as well as other pre-cooked products.

"Though we do not slaughter the cattle ourselves, we purchase the meat from halal certified abattoirs. Our's is to package and compliment existing poultry products," she says.

During the tour, SUPKEM's Halal Certification Department led by Sheikh Yusuf Abouhamza confirmed that the slaughtering process of the birds is undertaken by Muslim employees who are halal trained and certified.

In conclusion, Sheikh Abouhamza concurred that halal certification, preceding audits and follow ups are vital in reassuring and gaining consumer confidence that indeed what they purchase is halal.

Tanzania Grand Mufti attends Mombasa Qur'an recitation fete



Sheikh Dkt. Abubakar Zubeir Bin Ally Mbwana-The Grand Mufti of the Republic of Tanzania who is also the Chair of Baraza Kuu la Waislamu Tanzania (BAKWATA) recently graced the closing ceremony of the 2nd Annual Musadaqa Tul Qur'an (Tilawa Version) Competition 2026-Qur'an Mujawwad and Murattal; as the Chief Guest at Masjid

Sheikh Nurein (TSS Mosque) in Mombasa.

Sheikh Dkt. Abubakar Zubeir was among other distinguished personalities including the chairman of Kenya Fatwa Council-Sheikh Ahmed Ahmed Badawi and the SUPKEM Vice Chair-Sayyid Shariff Khitam (pictured left).

The event that was organised by the SUPKEM

Coast region office, saw reciters compete in various categories.

Al Hajj Khamis Mwanguzo-the Coast region SUPKEM coordinator termed the competition as a success noting that it targeted mostly Muslim youth.

"The theme was Youth Empowerment-Moral Leadership & Nation Building."