THE ROLE OF THE KENYAN DIASPORA IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A THEORETICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT
The importance of the role that the diaspora play in economic development is undisputable. The Government of Kenya has taken cognizance of this fact and has put a number of measures to ensure that the diaspora are engaged. Some of the measures are inclusion of the role of the diaspora in the New Constitution (2010) and Vision 2030, the development of a Diaspora Policy (2007) among others. This research is a theoretical review of the role of the Kenyan Diaspora economic development. The research provides a synthesis and comparative analysis of the recent studies (2006-2013) on role of diaspora in creating sustainable businesses since previous research have looked at specific aspects of the role of Kenyan diaspora in business and development and have not endeavored to perform a comparative analysis. It concludes by stating that a gap exists in the studies conducted on the role of Kenyan diaspora in economic development and gives areas that future studies could focus on.

KEYWORDS
Diaspora, Kenyan Diaspora, economic development, brain drain

INTRODUCTION
There is no universally accepted definition of the term diaspora. This is largely due to the fact that terms acquire meaning in their relationships to and nuanced differences from related others (Ferdinand de Saussure, 1916). Safran (1991) gave a definition of diaspora, which was a consequence of the study of the Jewish Diaspora. However, the definition he gave may not define the characteristics of ensuing ones. For instance, the Kenyan Diaspora Policy (2007) defines diaspora as “Kenyan citizens holding a Kenyan passport and/or having dual citizenship and residing outside the country for an indefinite period whether for employment, business, vacation, education or any other purpose”.

Cohen (1997) asserts that the concept of diaspora is elusive and although attempts have been made to provide a typology such typologies and definitions do not recognize the dynamic and fluid character of both diaspora and the unpredictable transnational environments in which they develop and acquire substance. For purposes of this paper the term diaspora will be taken to mean the dispersion or spread of any people from their homeland. The term Kenyan diaspora therefore refers to the dispersion or spread of Kenyans from their homeland.

MOTIVATIONS FOR MIGRATION OF KENYANS
The Kenyan Diaspora Policy (2007) classifies the migration by Kenyans abroad into three different waves. The first took place before Kenya’s independence in 1963 in which a few Kenyans went abroad in pursuit of better education and training. Many of them were involved in the struggle for independence. The second phase took place during the great airlift in which a number of young Kenyans went abroad to