



EMBASSY OF KENYA

**WORKING BREAKFAST WITH AMBASSADORS
ACCREDITED TO KENYA ON NON-RESIDENCE
BASIS**

Hilton Hotel

Friday, 7th October, 2011

**Excellencies,
Charge d'affairs,
Colleagues**

1. It is a great honour for me to welcome you to this breakfast, which has been long coming seeing that I have already been in Addis Ababa for over a year now. It is my commitment to right this delay and therefore I want to begin by thanking all of your Excellencies that graciously accepted this invitation, at short notice, as well as the CDAs that are here representing their Excellencies. I wish to apologise for our inability to provide translation for languages other than English.
2. While I am conscious that each of the bilateral relations with Kenya represented here this morning is independently very important to us as a country, it is my desire to initiate the community of the ambassadors accredited to Kenya on a non-residence basis. I have been tempted to call this forum the "Kenyan Ambassadors" but shall not detain us here with the issue of name that we may give to such a formation. Suffice to say, it is my desire to reaffirm the value of each and all of these representations to Kenya.
3. This breakfast today is the first step towards the initiation of the community I refer to. I intent to do this through three things very rapidly.
 - a) First, I wish to introduce you all to the staff of the Kenya Embassy in Addis Ababa.
 - The philosophy by which we operate is that each one of us is able and capable of assisting with any matter relating to the relations between our sisterly countries.
 - However, we have more than 21 embassies represented here, and in an effort to better serve each of your needs, we have designated a specific officer to act as the focal point for each country.
 - May I now invite the officers of the mission to stand for the introductions - each will also give a short indication of what other areas they work in at the mission – and which countries they are focal points for. (introductions)
 - We have seated each focal officer with the group of countries they are responsible for on your tables to ensure some familiarization and conversation. It

is my hope that you will get out of this breakfast session with the their particulars.

b) The second thing that I want to do this morning is to comment briefly on some of the main issues of concern to some of the colleagues sitting around the table. I want to focus particular attention on four issues:

- Presentation of credentials in Nairobi. A number of colleagues have been waiting for a while now – for indication of dates when they may present credentials to H.E Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya. May I begin by expressing our sincere apologies for the delays in this critical first step for each diplomat ahead of transacting formal business in countries of accreditation. The delays have been caused by a number of factors, most beyond our control. What I want to assure all of us is that this is a matter of top priority within the ministry now. The advice from HQs is for us to consult with those concerned on two probable dates when the presentation of credentials can organized for the Addis Ababa group of Ambassadors. It is, therefore, my hope that discussions during this breakfast or shortly after will give us an indication of possibilities that we can convey to Nairobi for prompt processing.
- A number of countries are seeking the establishment or re-establishment of their missions in Nairobi. It would useful to have the details where these processes are and what assistance you may wish for the Addis mission to offer.
- A number of countries are seeking the establishment of specific frameworks of cooperation, such as MOUs, JCC etc. Once again, concise information on the status of the negotiations could assist us in advising on how to expedient such processes.
- Consular matters, etc.
While you may wish to take these issues up with your focal officers, I would be grateful for some discussion around the tables on such issues – particularly if there is a delegation that would want to share this with us now.

c) The third thing I want to do is to express my commitment to be available to undertake a briefing session on Kenya with this group every quarter. As I am sure

all of you know that Kenya has made great progress in its transformation since the fateful events of 2008.

- Politically, the country was set on new pedestal with the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution. Significantly, we are entering into an election cycle. We are set for a general election, the first within the framework of the new constitution next year and I am sure your capitals, as many other friends and partners across the world, are keen to follow on the developments.
- Economically, Kenya is a destination of choice for investment in the region with an array of business opportunities and an enabling operational environment. We have a magical tourist industry with each aspect of it giving every visitor only a touch of Kenya. It is an experience I wish for each one of you here around this table. I recall one visitor to Kenya remarking, "if God created a paradise in the world, it is in Kenya". It is my hope that you and your families will have several opportunities to experience the "touch of Kenya" severally.
- Socially, we are a great people – lovers of visitors but curious about exploring the world. We have rich cultural heritage that can form a great basis for exchange and enrichment across the continent. It is my hope that we can strengthen these ties between our governments but also our peoples and institutions in order to buttress the integration of the African peoples.

d) Excellencies, Heads of Missions and Colleagues, it would be remiss of me, at this time when we are beginning to focus some attention on the coming African Union Commission elections at the January 2012 Summit, not to officially inform this community that Kenya is fully behind the candidature of Mr. Erastus Mwencha for re-election as the Deputy Chair of the AUC. While we are yet to officially launch the campaign, and I am sure I will be seeing each one of you in this capacity, I have thought that this is a matter that I need to bring to your attention today. Kenya believes that Mr. Mwencha's re-election is crucial to the ongoing reform at the AUC. It is also our belief that Mr. Mwencha has served the last four years with distinction and that he is the best candidate to continue this process. It is therefore our hope that each of you seated here today will support him and guarantee sustained the much needed reform process at the AUC.

4. Excellencies, I am looking forward to a robust community of Ambassadors accredited to Kenya. We do have a *Wanainchi* club at the embassy and each one of you is invited to experience a bit of Kenya, every Saturday, at your convenience. I wish to end my remarks this morning by once again, thanking you for honouring our invitation to this breakfast. I look forward to some discussions from the floor, and wish you all a great friday.

5. Thank you for your kind attention.

Dr. Monica Juma
Ambassador/Permanent Representative