



STATEMENT

BY

**HER EXCELLENCY DR. MONICA KATHINA JUMA
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF A “COUPE DE CHAMPAGNE”
FOLLOWING HER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS**

JUNE 29, 2010

SHERATON, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

At approximately 11:30 a.m. today, in the company of my spouse Professor Peter Kagwanja and the Mission staff, I presented my credentials to His Excellency Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. In so doing, I am now formally accredited as the Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Kenya to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. This most solemn of events, as many of you here will testify, having already experienced it, is not only essential to our very remit but is reflective of the high esteem with which Ethiopia holds its diplomatic traditions and the value it places on receiving representatives of Sovereign States. I was very impressed by the timing and the dignity that was accorded the event and I must express my deep appreciation to the Office of the President for the flawless execution of the proceedings earlier today.

Excellencies, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to sincerely thank you for accepting my invitation to attend this evening's reception, particularly given the short notice that some would have received. This tradition, which introduces the Head of Mission to a thriving Ethiopian community representative of all aspects of society, is a significant aspect of the life of an Ambassador following his or her Presentation of Credentials. I am delighted to share the moment with all of you.

Now that I am formally a member of the large diplomatic community of Ethiopia, I propose to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other related Ethiopian institutions to assist in the fulfilment of my mandate. On this point, and for fear of being remiss in my responsibilities, I must sincerely thank the Minister of State, Dr. Tekeda Alemu, the Chief of Protocol Mr. Mesfin and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for extending to me the privilege of their warm welcome upon my arrival in Ethiopia. I remain grateful for the assistance extended to me by the Ministry thus far and I look forward to a long and mutually rewarding relationship.

I also know that I would not be able to complete my mission without the support and advice of my fellow Ambassadors. I had the honour and privilege of a gracious welcome, mounted by

ambassadors from the East African region at my arrival, cupped by a homely reception. In this regard, I wish to express gratitude to Ambassador Moheldin the dean of this Eastern African group for the warmth of their reception. I look forward to their continued friendship and comradarie. Beyond this group of colleagues, I eagerly anticipate a close working relationship with all of the other Excellencies, as well as the distinguished personages gathered here from the various organizations based in Ethiopia, and sectors of the Ethiopian society.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is not an occasion for long speeches. I now want to invite you to please partake generously of this fare before you. In sampling the delights presented to us may I propose a toast:

- ❖ To the warm and friendly historical relations that have existed and continue to grow between the Republic of Kenya and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Cheers! and,

- ❖ To cooperative relations with all the countries that comprise the wider diplomatic community in Addis Ababa: cheers!

Thank you for your attention and welcome to enjoy the rest of the evening's proceedings!

Dr. Monica Juma
Ambassador of Kenya to Ethiopia