



JAMHURI MESSAGE

ON THE 48th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

BY

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My Fellow Kenyans, I have waited for this zero hour of 12 December 2011, to salute you all in the memory of our Jamhuri, “Republic”. As we remember this twice significant date, **our Uhuru**, attained on the stroke of midnight of 12 December 1963, and the **Declaration of our Republic** on 12 December 1964, I want to send the most heartfelt best wishes for yourself, your family and our great nation.

At Kenya’s representation in Addis Ababa, we have had a year of great significance since we last together sung, *Harambee, Harambee* on that chilly night of 12th December 2010. At the bilateral level, a number of activities continue to strengthen our relations with the two countries of representation.

Between 29 May and 2nd June 2011, we convened our Joint Ministerial Commission with Ethiopia, after a lull of 7 years. Out of the deliberations, an agreement on trade, Memoranda of understanding on Agriculture; and Cooperative Development were signed. In addition, 32 areas of mutual cooperation were identified and work elaborating each of these is underway. Negotiations for a power purchase agreement, to provide us with adequate power to drive our vision of 2030, are near completion. So far, Moyale has been connected to the Ethiopian grid, and the mission team, led by myself, witnessed the town of Moyale alight on 9 and 10 November 2011. On 7th November, 2011, in the line with Vision 2030, we witnessed the signing of the Transport agreement and a Memorandum for the development and management of the north transport corridor. We look forward to the ground breaking ceremony for the LAPSET project. Overall, cooperation between Kenya and Ethiopia continues to grow from strength to strength providing a sound basis for seizing a range of opportunities for enhanced and mutual development, as well as to address any challenges that arise especially along the common borders.

On 28th November 2011, I journeyed to Djibouti, in the company of my staff, and presented credentials to H.E Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti. During that mission, we had occasion to interact with Kenyans, who came from far and wide within Djibouti to meet with us. In our discussions they expressed a strong commitment to revitalize their Kenyan association there. I want to take this opportunity to thank them, yet again, for flying Kenya’s flag high and with integrity in that country, in which you see Kenyan footsteps everywhere you look! It is my hope that their numbers and influence will continue to grow. We used that opportunity to hold bilateral discussions across government, with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, Transport, The Chamber of Commerce, the Investment Promotion Agency, the Speaker of Parliament as well as the Tourism Promotion Board. We shall be building on these discussions in the coming year.

At the multilateral level, we continue to ensure Kenya’s full and effective participation at the IGAD, AU and UNECA levels. In IGAD we remain the chair the IGAD Sub-Committee on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the year has brought many firsts, most significantly the successful referendum of South Sudan on 9 January 2011 and the birth of the independent state of South Sudan, on 9 July 2011. We continue to be seized with the search for amenable resolution of all outstanding and post referendum issues affecting these two sisterly countries. We also continue to be engaged in the search for peace and stability in Somalia. As you are all aware, on 16th

October, 2011, we launched Operation ***Linda Inchi*** in response to the continued and fragrant attacks by Al Shabaab on our territory, people and guests, with serious implications for security, public safety as well as our economy. The operation has since its commencement liberated large territories and populations in the lower Juba region, became a game changer on the ground and created unique opportunities for the stabilization of Somalia. This has triggered a renewed international momentum manifesting in intense regional, continental and UN interactions that have led to the revision of the AMISOM concept of operations and discussions on the second phase of AMISOM deployment. The significance of our operation was underscored by the AU request for Kenya to integrate with AMISOM forces, a request that was considered favourably by the Parliament, in line with the requirements of the 2010 constitution. Last week, the H.E Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations Secretary General, lauded this decision as a major step in the efforts towards stabilizing Somalia and the horn region. I take this opportunity to salute the gallant sons and daughters of Kenya that are defending our nation at this time.

At the AU level, we remain an active and significant member of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) as well as other Permanent Representative Committees. We are fully engaged in decision making processes on all strategic issues. Among these is the issue of climate change, in which we actively engage as a member of the AU Heads of States and Government Committee of Ten on Climate Change. As we move towards Rio in 2012, we are lobbying for the maintenance of the African position that seeks to revitalize the UNEP mandate, its transformation to a specialized UN Agency, and its continued domicile in Nairobi. We are also serving on the AU Committee of Ten on UN Reform. The last year has also seen a number of Kenyan candidates endorsed for international offices. Significantly, we are seeking the re-election of H.E Erastus Mwencha to the position of deputy chairperson of the AUC at the elections scheduled for January 2012. In November 2011, the mission officially launched the Mwencha campaign with the East African group, which agreed by consensus to evolve a collective regional strategy to lobby for his reappointment. The mission will undertake a number of activities in the light of this effort in January 2012. It is my hope that each and every Kenyan will lobby and campaign within their platforms for this important country position. A number of Kenyans have arrived in Addis Ababa to take up various executive positions, most recently Bruce Orina, the new head of ICRC, a little earlier Wa-Kyendo came to ADB and not so long ago, Mr. Were arrived to take up the helm at the WFP regional office. To you all, as well as those that I am yet to meet, I say Karibuni Sana!

Addis Ababa continues to grow as the fulcrum of Kenya's Africa diplomacy. Reflecting this reality, the mission has received and facilitated nearly the entire Executive in the last year. The President has been to Addis a total of 5 times since last December. We have hosted the Vice President (once), the Prime Minister (twice) and more than 80 ministerial delegations, including 3 ministers last week (minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Minister of Gender and Community Development). Kenya's participation in all sectoral activities remains significant and value adding. As evidence of this, we chair 5 of the AU 12 Ministerial Committees. This is the leadership we hope to nurture into the coming year.

In the year gone-by we also lost some important personages that the mission commemorated. Among these was Samuel Wanjiru, the young marathoner that brought both pride and fame to Kenya, who lost his life when still most young. We welcomed his friends and co-competitors, led by Gabre Haile Selassie, in a colourful memorial service at the mission. We also opened a condolences books for Prof Wangari Muta Maathai, and in view of her great influence on the African continent, both as the first President of the AU ECOSOCC and the AU Special Envoy on the Congo forest, the mission created a Wangare Maathai corner, a small way to immortalize this great Kenyan, that in many ways lived ahead of her time! We also had another significant event at the mission: the launch of our website: www.kenyaembassyaddis.org that we hope all of you will patronize regularly.

The world awaits the miracle of our constitution as we transition, in peace, to a new political dispensation. I am excited at the prospect of every Kenyan participating in the historic election of 2012, and take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Embassy of Kenya in Addis to be an active partner with the Headquarters and Kenyans in Ethiopia and Djibouti, in the realization of this basic right of every Kenya adult –as expressed in the third stanza of our National Anthem, we have to arise, stand together and build Kenya:

*Let all with one accord
In common bond united
Build this our nation together
And the glory of Kenya
The fruit of our labour
Fill every heart with thanksgiving.*

*Natujenge taifa letu
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani*

I wish you every bit of a good day, this 48th Jamhuri day, and look forward to seeing you on Friday evening, 16th December 2011, when we shall relive this most auspicious day, at the Hilton Hotel. I also wish to take this opportunity to wish each and every Kenyan a restive, festive season and a prosperous New Year, 2012.

MIMI NITAKUWEPO! JE WEWE?

Dr. Monica Juma
ADDIS ABABA