



**Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
to Ethiopia, Djibouti
&
Permanent Mission to the African Union, IGAD, UNECA**

WELCOME STATEMENT

At the Breakfast hosted for

**Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya**

**By
Dr. Monica Juma
Ambassador of Kenya to Ethiopia/Djibouti & Permanent Representative to the AU**

**SHERATON ADDIS ABABA
17 November 2011**

Your Excellency Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya

Your Excellency Mama Ida Odinga

Senior Government Officials

Staff of the Embassy of Kenya in Addis Ababa

Ladies and Gentlemen

On my own behalf and that of the entire staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Addis Ababa, I wish to express our delight at welcoming your Excellency Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, Her Excellency Mama Ida Odinga and the rest of your delegation sir, to Addis Ababa this morning.

It is my singular pleasure to host this morning breakfast and to thank you most sincerely for accepting to grace this occasion, in spite of having journeyed far and this being a very early time of the day. We much appreciate the honour you have bestowed on us by your breaking your trip in Addis Ababa and it my hope that you are feeling at home at his point in your journey. We bring you sir, the greetings of many Kenyans that are resident in this city but who could not be with us for this breakfast.

Before we embark on our breakfast Your Excellency, I wish to introduce my staff at the embassy to you and say a few words about our work in this mission.

Christopher Chika – Deputy Head of mission

Michael Mutiso – is the Defence Attache at the mission and leads the team on issues of Defence and Security

Richard Lemoshira – holds the position of minister Counsellor and is the focal point on issues of trade and investment

Nathan Machani – 1st Secretary Political Affairs and leads the mission team on issues of agriculture, environment and climate change

James Kibon – is a Second Counsellor in charge of consular affairs, as well as on matters relating to international crimes such as terrorism and piracy

Gilbert Ngeno – Is a 3rd Secretary and deals with issues of peace and security but most fundamentally focal point for the missions protocol work

Mercy Odongo – 3rd Secretary leads the mission team on questions of development with a special focus on the MDGs

James Musolo – is our Financial Attache – and helps the mission ensure appropriate business processes as well as monitoring probity and accountability within the institutions where the mission is accredited and Kenya makes financial contributions annually – namely the AU, IGAD as well as several international bodies such as Desert and Locust control body.

Josiah Mbuvi – Is an Administrative attaché that is in charge of our registry and communication.

Scholastica Obura – Is the secretary to the Defence Attache.

Zakia Senussi – is an Administrative Attache, and finally

Florence Odero – Is my confidential secretary.

One other officer, a Minister Counselor, Beatrice Karago, who leads the mission team on issues of governance, human rights and humanitarian issues is currently on training and therefore not with us today.

This, Your Excellency, is my magic team. I call it so because Addis is one of the most unique missions of Kenya abroad. It is a bilateral mission accredited to Ethiopia and Djibouti as well as a large number of international organizations working out of Addis Ababa. There are also some 22 Ambassadors stationed here that are accredited to Kenya on a non-resident basis that we interact with on a continuous basis. Besides being a bilateral station, Addis Ababa is also a multilateral station accredited to IGAD, AU, UNECA and the recently created United Nations Office to the African Union.

On the whole we receive an average of 3 official delegations per week and between 6-10 ministerial delegations per month from across all government. This broad scope of

work demands an agile team that operates seamlessly across areas and issues, and that is what we have in Addis Ababa.

We continue to leverage Kenya's interests at the levels of operations. Bilaterally, the last 6 months have seen the signing of 3 agreements with Ethiopia in trade, agriculture, in transport, and two MOUs in Cooperative development as well as the development and management of the northern Corridor (signed on 7th November); we continue to promote mechanisms for peaceful co-existence between Ethiopia and our country. I am pleased to report that last week I led my team all the way to Moyale, and I can confirm strengthening cross-border cooperation across all sectors – peace committees are well established and functioning, in medical services, veterinary services, customs etc. Our preliminary impressions are that Moyale has great potential for adding value to the largely unprocessed raw materials that pass through it every day from Ethiopia. I can also confirm that Moyale-Kenya is now light having power after the electricity line was energized some 2 weeks ago. During our mission last week, we also had had the opportunity to visit the three hydro-electricity projects of Gil Gibe I, II and Gibe III.

Yesterday, I was held discussion with my counterpart at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the commencement of work relating to inspection and rehabilitation of the common border beacons. We hope to have this work commence before the end of the year.

At the regional level, we have and continue to mobilize the growing support for our operations in Somalia. Last Monday, the Minister of Defence and Chief of Defence Staff attended the meeting of AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries, UN and partners in which a number of modalities were agreed upon to guide the next phase of AMISOM deployment. In this regard, we are consulting on the possibility of an IGAD extraordinary summit to pronounce itself ahead of UNSC session on the matter expected to convene in the next fortnight or so. Later today, the PSC will be convening on the matter of Somalia, and as you are aware we are members of this critical body of the AU. It is therefore my hope that the PSC shall consider and endorse the outcomes of the Monday meeting.

Our efforts in relation to Somalia have benefited immensely by the clear direction that we have received out Nairobi and the demonstrated resolve at the level of the both yourself and HE President Kibaki. In this regard, I wish to commend your efforts in enhancing the security of our homeland through the cooperation that you secured during your mission to Israel.

At the AU, we continue to push for common African positions that will enhance our pursuit for vision 2030 and promote the Pan-African agenda of integration. A key issue which is of great interest to your Excellency is the ongoing preparations for COP 17 and Rio plus 20, which will be held in 2012. Minister Michuki was here yesterday to attend the Summit of the AU Committee of Ten on Climate Change (of which we are a member). This meeting deliberated on the modalities that the negotiating team for Durban (later this month). It also identified the key issues of concern for the negotiations, namely a second commitment on Kyoto, financing for adaptation and mitigation. The meeting also discussed the modalities of negotiations for the benefit of Africa. We are keen that the outcomes of Durban will reinforce support for the revitalization of UNEP as well as its continued domicile in Nairobi. The campaign for the transformation of UNEP is a matter that would benefit from the highest political engagement.

Your Excellency, these are but some highlights of the scope of work that we are engaged with at the Addis Ababa mission. And on behalf of my entire team I wish to assure you that we are following closely on all existing, as well as new, opportunities to ensure that Kenya plays its rightful role, positions itself in its rightful place, and accrues the maximum benefits out of its mission in Addis Ababa.

With these remarks, I wish to once again thank you for sharing this morning meal with us, for your kind attention, and wish to most pleasantly invite you to say a few words to the staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Addis Ababa.

Your Excellency, welcome to address us, Sir. Karibu.

Dr. Monica Juma

**AMBASSADOR OF KENYA TO ETHIOPIA & DJIBOUTI &
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AU/IGAD & UNECA**