



STATEMENT BY H.E DR.MONICA K.JUMA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF
LETTERS OF CREDENCE
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY, ISMAIL OMAR GUELLEH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI,
AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, DJIBOUTI
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011

Your Excellency, President Ismail Omar Guelleh:

It is an honour and privilege to convey the very best compliments of my Head of State, His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya to Your Excellency, for your personal well being, and through you to the Government and People of Djibouti for peace and prosperity of this great Nation.

The Government of Kenya is committed to deepen the already strong existing ties between our two countries at all levels: our excellent bilateral relations, on geo-strategic issues that impact Djibouti and Kenya, and at the level of our joint efforts to strengthen multilateral politics and systems. Today, on this solemn occasion, I would like to reiterate this commitment by my Government.

Your Excellency,

I have instructions from President Kibaki to focus attention on work that invigorates the content of our bilateral ties. In this regard, I shall pay a particular attention to revitalising our Joint Commission that elaborates various areas of cooperation. In particular, I have a mandate to deepen the bonds of cooperation on trade and investment as well as to advance areas that promote and accelerate the socio-economic development of our two sisterly countries and peoples. Although trade between our two countries is small, all factors point to the potential to grow the trade exponentially. In this regard, I wish to express our desire to increase the frequency of passenger as well as cargo KQ flights into and out of Djibouti. I am also keen to engage in the promotion of socio-cultural exchanges through language, education, health and culture.

Your Excellency,

President Kibaki has asked me to commend your commitment towards deepening our bilateral relations through the opening of a fully-fledged Embassy in Nairobi. In this regard, the President asked me to assure Your Excellency that Kenya values your government's decision in this regard and is committed to undertake reciprocal steps to realise similar objectives.

Your Excellency,

On regional issues, in particular peace and security, I have benefited immensely from the cooperation of my Djiboutian colleagues even before I presented my credentials to you. In the last 12 months, I have worked cooperatively with your Ambassadors to both IGAD and AU, and particularly in the AU Peace and Security Council, to which we are both members, to promote decisions that enhance regional peace and security, and that address our common threats including terrorism and piracy. Today, I wish to reiterate my commitment to continue conferring and consulting with my ambassador colleagues on all issues of mutual concern.

It is my intention to build on the work of the growing number of official high level visits in both directions and dialogue not only in the search for peace and security in our region but in an increasing number of areas of mutual interest. Particularly significant among our common endeavours is our continued unequivocal participation in IGAD that is underpinned by commitment to regional peace, mutual respect and desire to promote multilateralism and the rule of law in international relations.

Your Excellency,

I now have the singular honour, to present to you, the Letter of Recall of my Predecessor, Ambassador Franklin Esipila, and My Letter of Credence by which His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki has appointment and bestowed confidence on me to serve as Kenya's next Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Djibouti. I want to assure you of my commitment to do my very best to further strengthen the ties between our two sisterly countries.

Finally Your Excellency, I ask of your Excellency to confer on me the same trust you bequeathed my predecessor. Thank You, Your Excellency.

Dr. Monica Juma
AMBASSADOR KENYA TO DJIBOUTI