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H.E. President William Ruto addressing the conference of Heads of State and Government of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region, at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 17, 2023

36th AU Heads of State and Government Summit in Addis Ababa

By Andrew Kuria and Irene Kimeu

President William Ruto led Kenya's delegation to the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from February 18 to 19, 2023.

The theme of the summit was "Accelerating the African Continent Free Trade Area." In his speech, the President addressed Africa's development interest and emphasized that Africa should be accorded ample financial support to tame the cycle of inequality and exploitation.

He asked the Bretton Woods Institutions - World Bank and International Monetary Fund to review their plans and match the aspirations of Africa since they have the power to transform the continent noting that this can be realized if the institutions attain a significant measure of Africanisation in their aspects.

It is time for both climate financing mechanisms and multilateral development financing to imagine Africa as a legitimate stakeholder.

"We must arm Africa with the requisite tools to build resilience and cushion the continent from adverse impacts such as conflicts," said Ruto.

The President noted that while Africa continues to bear the brunt of the negative impacts from industrialized carbon emitters, it must lead the way in choosing green growth as the critical pathway to a sustainable future.

At the African Union Peace and Security mini-Summit, the president addressed the current situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where he urged the Heads of State and Government to embrace dialogue for the stability and prosperity of DRC.

While attending an inaugural Ministerial Forum on Africa Centers for Disease Control, the president called on African states to move into a new phase of healthcare provision with a focus on the early prevention of diseases and an aggressive approach to manufacturing of vaccines and medical products.

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36th AU Heads of State and Government Summit in Addis Ababa

Continued from page 3

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H.E the President also participated in the Second Conference of the Heads of State and Government on the Climate Change Commission for the Sahel Region. Being a Champion of Climate Change, Ruto rallied African Heads of State and Government to champion the aspirations of its people, implement action oriented initiatives and work collectively in mitigating climate change.

On the sidelines of the African Union Summit, H.E. the President participated in the inaugural High Level Ministerial Forum, organized by the Africa CDC. On the backdrop of the Host Country Agreement signed between Kenya and African Union Commission, H.E. the President reaffirmed that the Government of Kenya is ready to avail land for the construction of the premises for the Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centre in Nairobi.

Earlier on, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua, on February 15, 2023 attended the 42nd Executive Council of the African Union ordinary session at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, in preparation for the 36th ordinary session of the summit of Heads of State and Government of the AU on February 18 and 19, 2023.

The CS held discussions with AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki where both discussed peace and security in the African Continent as well as Kenya's key role in democracy, peace stability and development of Africa's member states.



The 42nd Ordinary Session of AU Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Feb 15, 2023

On behalf of Kenya, Dr. Mutua signed the African Medicines Agency treaty (AMA) in the presence of the African Union Commissioner for Humanitarian, Health and Social Development H.E. Amb. Minata Semate Cessouma making Kenya the 31st country in Africa to sign the Treaty.

The main purpose of the treaty is to enhance manufacturing of medicines and vaccines for African use and also to be able to purchase or bargain for a good price for medicines being imported into the continent.



CS Mutua held discussions with AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki on the side-lines of the AU Summit

Dr. Alfred Mutua also signed a host country agreement between Kenya and African Union (AU), paving way for the operationalization of a temporary secretariat of the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (AACC) based in Nairobi.

The Cabinet Secretary also met leaders of Kenyans living in Ethiopia who invited him to a meet and greet event at the Kenyan Embassy in Addis Ababa. They raised issues affecting them including job and internship opportunities for Kenyan among others.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei moderated a side event on the margins of AU Summit in Addis Ababa, dubbed; 'Sharing Kenya's Experience at the UN Security Council'

Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Sing'oei on the margins of the Summit held a side event where he shared Kenya's experience as Africa's Representative at the United Nations Security Council (2021-2022) on February 17, 2023.

Later the PS represented the President at a High Level Side Event organized by UNESCO for the Launch of the Continental Report CESA 2016-2025 and SDG-4 Education in Africa: "Placing Equity at the Heart of Education Policy," held on February 18, 2023.

The keynote address was delivered by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde and the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, H.E. Julius Maada Bio. PS Sing'oei welcomed the Report and highlighted some of the gains Kenya has made in the field of Education over the past few years.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua participated at the COVID-19 Global Action Plan (GAP) Virtual Ministerial Meeting convened and presided by the US Secretary of State on February 8, 2023.

US convenes Covid-19 Ministerial Virtual Meeting

By Kevin Thuo

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, participated at the Covid-19 Global Action Plan (GAP) Virtual Ministerial Meeting, convened and presided over by the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on February 8, 2023

The meeting was organized to review previous efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic and to promote collaborations on preventing, detecting and responding to the next global health threat.

On interventions, the CS stated that the fluid nature of the Covid-19 pandemic was a cautious reminder that no one was safe and that global vaccine inequalities were a regrettable barrier to global health security.

CS Mutua appealed to participants for concerted global efforts in addressing the challenges of Covid-19 and other future pandemics. The Covid-19 pandemic had demonstrated the need to strengthen the capacities of all countries, especially African States and other institutions for better respond to similar pandemics in future.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua participates at the Covid-19 Ministerial Virtual Meeting

Additionally, the CS observed that the boosting of the COVAX facility and supporting all African countries to access it, as well as prioritizing countries in conflict and post-conflict situations by including vaccines as part of humanitarian aid, was key to mitigating the social-economic and security impacts of any future pandemics.

The Global Action Plan Ministerial meeting was launched as an intensive 12-month effort mobilization for over 33 countries as well as the European Union, the African Union and the World Health Organization to help lead the world out of the acute phase of the Covid-19.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei, held a virtual meeting with all Heads of Mission in Africa on February, 2 2023.

PS Sing'oei meets Heads of Mission in Africa

By Fartun Dahir

Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, held a virtual meeting with all Kenyan Heads of Mission in Africa on February, 2 2023.

During the meeting, PS Sing'oei commended the Ambassadors for their leadership in the Missions and their able representation of Kenya as a key State that plays a significant role in the continent on matters of multilateralism, climate change, peace and security.

"Africa being critical and at the core of Kenya's foreign policy agenda, it is essential to deliberate on Kenya's priorities and the deliverables that support the country's Development Agenda," the PS said.

The Principal Secretary informed of the steps by the Ministry in ensuring seamless transition as well as smooth running of affairs. He further reaffirmed his commitment to work closely with the Heads of Missions and stated that the meetings would take place on a regular basis.

The meeting with Heads of Mission in Africa is the first in a series of meetings he will hold with Heads of Missions from all the Regions.

Some of the issues discussed in the meeting included Intra-Africa cooperation, Regional peace and Security, Trade and Economic Diplomacy, Bilateral Frameworks of Cooperation, among others.

The PS encouraged the leveraging of technology between the Ministry and the Missions to reduce the communication gap and urged the Ambassadors to continue forging and deepening Kenya's relations with their respective host countries to increase trade, business and employment opportunities for Kenyans which are key in promoting Kenya's economic diplomacy.

The Missions represented in the meeting included Algiers, Luanda, Bujumbura, Kinshasa, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Tripoli, Dakar, Accra, Maputo, Windhoek, Abuja, Kigali, Pretoria, Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala and Lusaka, among others.

The PS closed the meeting by assuring of his readiness to work closely with the Heads of Missions to ensure that the gap between the Ministry and the Missions is bridged.

The meeting with Heads of Mission in Africa is the first in a series of meetings the PS will hold with Heads of Missions from all the Regions.



Eritrean President visits Kenya



H.E. President William Ruto and H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of Eritrea at Statehouse Nairobi on February 8, 2023.

By Irene Kimeu

The President of Eritrea, His Excellency Isaias Afwerki arrived in Kenya for a two-day official visit on February 8, 2023. He was received at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua, accompanied by Kenya Army Commander Lieutenant General Peter Njiru, Eritrean Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Beneye Russom and other dignitaries.

Later, the two Presidents held high level talks and deliberated on bilateral matters, regional and international issues of mutual interest between the two nations.

On bilateral matters, the two leaders agreed to enhance their relations on political, economic, social and cultural matters and agreed, therefore, on development of comprehensive plans of cooperation on economic development and regional integration to enhance business.

On matters of trade and connectivity between the two countries, both presidents agreed to abolish visa requirement for their citizens visiting both countries which came to effect on February 8, 2023. The two leaders therefore instructed respective organizations to work on modalities for the ratification of such directive.



President Ruto announced the establishment of a diplomatic mission in Asmara and instructed the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to commence the process of operationalizing the commitment.

The Foreign Affairs Ministers for both countries signed a framework agreement for cooperation which is to form basis for elaboration of joint action across various sectors.

On regional integration, the two presidents discussed matters of strategic cooperation between the two countries where President Ruto thanked the Eritrean President for the declaration to re-join the Intergovernmental Authority on Development(IGAD). Both Presidents agreed to work closely with the other member states to re-engineer IGAD for purposes of effective response to the regional needs.

In areas of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, the leaders underscored the need to affirm peace and security in the horn of African as well as ensuring non-interference of domestic political processes of African countries by external forces.

“The success of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that calls for a borderless operation, is pegged on security, solidarity and stability of the regional states “said President Ruto who emphasized on issues on regional connectivity, businesses, peace and security.

The two presidents re-affirmed their commitment to strengthen multilateral institutions and later President Ruto thanked his counterpart for his increased support to Kenya and especially on the campaign for Kenya to secure a seat in the United Nations Security Council.

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua received visiting H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea on arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on February 8, 2023



Dr. Alfred Mutua hosted the Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the Americas and the Caribbean region based in Nairobi on February 10, 2023

CS Mutua's Public Diplomacy outreach to Americas Diplomatic Corps in Nairobi

By David Gatobu

Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the Americas and Caribbean region based in Nairobi were hosted for a breakfast meeting by Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua on February 10, 2023.

This was part of the Cabinet Secretary's Public Diplomacy outreach to the Diplomatic Community in Nairobi and was aimed at fostering and reinforcing cultural, political and economic ties between Kenya and the international community.

Speaking at the meeting, CS Mutua reiterated the Bottom-Up Economic model as the philosophy that underpins the Kenya Government's economic agenda.

He further urged the Americas and Caribbean region to take advantage of Kenya's positioning as the gateway to an even wider market through the East African Community and the Africa Free Continental Trade Area (AfCTA), one of the AU's Agenda 2063 flagship projects of the "Africa We Want."

In addition, the CS informed the diplomats that Kenya is a Constitutional democracy and the government was keen to ensure adherence to the rule of law for a stable and predictable business and economic environment.

CS Mutua thanked the diplomats for their support to Kenyans abroad.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Amb. Margaret Whitman, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Amb. Erasmo Martinez, Ambassador of Mexico to Kenya



CS Mutua inspects Canadian projects in Mombasa County



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua during the official visit to Kenya Canadian bilateral projects in the coastal region on February 11, 2023.

By Andrew Kuria

Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua has said that the Government will continue building partnerships with international bilateral partners for the benefit of Kenyans particularly through bottom up economic empowerment model.

The Cabinet Secretary further stated that all Kenyan missions abroad have been directed to increase and seek more markets for Kenyan products under the economic diplomacy pillar.

The CS said this during the official visit to Kenya Canadian bilateral projects in the coastal region on February 11, 2023. The first stop was Kenya Coast National Polytechnic that is host to the Blue Economy Skills Training Programme.

The programme is being implemented by the Canadian Government together with the Ministry of Education. It aims at developing new and enhanced competence based programs in the agriculture, hospitality and energy sectors in order to increase employment and economic development opportunities for Kenyan youth. The project also offers exchange programs between Kenya TVET and Canadian collages.

The second project the CS visited was Kentaste Products Limited in Ukunda, Kwale County which is involved in the processing of virgin coconut oil. Through collaboration with Mennonite Economic Development Association (MEDA Canadian) Kenstate was able to increase the number of small holder suppliers from 1500 to 3000 and also enhance its output from 30 to 60 MT per year. Kentaste is now Kenya's largest processor of coconut products in the country,



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua accompanied by the Canadian Deputy Ambassador to Kenya Warren Mucci during the official visit to Kenya Canadian bilateral projects in the coastal region on February 11, 2023.

The CS thanked the Canadian Government for the support and assured of better utilization of the funds. He said that Canada has pledged additional funding for the programme.

“This is the essence of having such international partners as friends, I will be engaging the Government of Canada later this year to sit down with my counterpart to agree on the number of jobs Kenyans will get so that students studying here can apply for jobs in Canada,” CS Mutua said.

“They have already pumped in Sh1.8 billion and are again ready to put in Sh2billion in to the programme, I will lure them to make it five billion,” he added.

CS Mutua was accompanied by the Canadian deputy ambassador to Kenya Warren Mucci and Head of Americas Directorate at the Ministry Amb. Angeline Musili.

Amb. Mucci said that his country believes in the need to succeed together that is why they were investing heavily in the program.



Operationalization of the Diplomatic Service Centre



Mr. Julius Bargorett, Coordinator Diplomatic Service Centre during a briefing meeting for KRA officers posted to the Centre at KRA Headquarters

By Kawira Githinji

The Government of Kenya has established the Diplomatic Service Centre aimed at facilitating the delivery of requisite Government services to the United Nations office staff and eventually, the rest of the Diplomatic Community.

Following the inauguration of the Centre, which is based at the UNON complex, staff were seconded from various government institutions comprising of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the National, Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), Department of Immigration Services and the Diplomatic Police Unit.

The Centre is headed by Mr. Julius Bargorett, as a coordinator from the State Department for Foreign Affairs, who is also the Deputy Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to UNEP and UNON.

Services offered at the Diplomatic Centre include; regular VAT, Annual blanket VAT filings, driving license, pin management, PRO 1A, PRO 1B(Goods), PRO 1B (Motor vehicle), PRO 1C, form A and C.

Prior to the establishment of the centre there were cumulatively 800 pending cases regarding regular and annual VAT refunds. These have all been cleared.

Other processes that have been cleared include, 53 approvals of driving licenses, 68 PIN management, 8 PRO 1A (for procurement of alcohol and tobacco), 8 PRO 1B (for procurement of general goods), 32 PRO 1B for motor vehicles, 38 PRO 1C for disposal of motor vehicles and 37 form A and C for motor vehicle registration.

The Kenya Revenue Authority desk was operationalized on Feb 20, 2023 with two officials seconded to the center. Services offered include, PIN registration and VAT exemptions since inception of the DSC 800 VAT exemptions have been processed and cleared.

NTSA deployed four members of staff to support UNON on September 1, 2022. Services offered include; registration of new Diplomatic vehicles, update of motor vehicle records, issuance of new logbooks, approval and issuance of new effective plates, issuance of driving license to the diplomats among others.

With the full operationalization of the centre there have been a sharp drop in complaints by staff on delays in delivering services especially endorsement of passports and exemption.

**Staff seconded to the Diplomatic Service Centre are drawn from : -
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Revenue Authority, the National, Transport and Safety Authority, Department of Immigration Services and the Diplomatic Police Unit.**



PS Sing'oei graces Sri-Lanka's Independence Day Anniversary



PS Dr. Korir Singoei, during the The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka celebrations of their 75th Independence Anniversary on February 4, 2023 in Nairobi.



By Fartun Dahir

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka celebrated their 75th Independence Anniversary on February 4, 2023 in Nairobi.

Dr. A. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs attended the celebrations during which he delivered a speech on behalf of the Government of Kenya.

In his speech, the PS appreciated the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri-Lanka for the invitation and on behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya sent warm salutation and best wishes to the Government and the People of Sri Lanka during the occasion.

He highlighted the existing warm cordial relations between the two countries bonded by shared values and aspirations.

PS Sing'oei noted that the relations between the two countries have indeed led to increased momentum in cooperation particularly around trade, climate change and transfer of technology; a partnership which has resonated well with Kenya's development aspirations as envisaged in Vision 2030 and Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Following President William Ruto's initiative to plant 15 billion trees in Kenya by 2032, he informed that Kenya is encouraged that Sri Lanka has responded to this call.

The Sri Lankan community's gesture of planting 100,000 trees in the EPZ will go a long way in supporting Kenya's effort geared towards mitigating effects of climate change and global warming.

His attendance at the event is one that affirmed Kenya and Sri Lanka's shared values as members of commonwealth and Indian Ocean Rim as well as the growing bilateral economic relations especially in textiles and tea.

The PS concluded by wishing Sri Lanka, a year of peace, prosperity and brotherhood among all ethnicities and cultures.



CS Mutua and French Trade Minister inspect projects in Uasin Gishu County

The French Minister for Foreign Trade, Economic Activity and French National Abroad H.E. Olivier Becht, made an official visit to Kenya on February 22, 2023 and was received by Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

The two deliberated on economic and social development in the country brought about by the good relations between Kenya and the French Government.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that economic and development has been brought about by the partnerships and the friendship between President William Ruto and his counterpart president Macron thus a great advantage to both countries.

Dr. Mutua together with the French Minister visited Uasin Gishu Governor, Honorable Jonathan Bii at his office and later visited the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

They toured the hospital's maternity and children's wards where French supported machines offering health services to Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Transzoia and Baringo counties are installed. Among other French supported programs includes, training of two Kenyan surgeons to treat liver and currently working in Eldoret. The CS requested the French government to train ten more Kenyans on liver cancer surgery.

Later on, the CS together with the French Minister visited a French owned fertilizer producing and blending plant, Baraka-Timac Agro Plant which shall supply high quality fertilizer to the farmers for increased harvests.

The Cabinet Secretary urged farmers in the area who have not picked up the Governments subsidized fertilizer to do so, to avoid last minutes' rush.

"President William Ruto's Kenya kwanza governments plan is to generate sustainable bumper harvests at low cost to the farmer and this will in return result to lower food prices. Because agriculture influences our economy, this will also lead to better circulation of money lowering the cost of living," said CS Mutua.

Dr. Mutua thanked the French government for the numerous projects it has undertaken in the country and added that the government is pushing for more investors from France to set up businesses in Kenya which in return shall lower the issue of unemployment among the youth.

"The visit by the French Minister shall open doors for more opportunities, jobs, enhanced business and amazing developments," said the CS.

At the end of the official tour, Dr. Mutua gifted the French Minister a shield for commemoration of his official visit to Kenya.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, French Minister of Trade, H.E. Olivier Becht and Governor, Uasin Gishu County, Hon. Jonatha Bill during a press conference in Eldoret on February 22, 2023



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua inspects medical equipment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Uasin Gishu County on February 22, 2023.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua together with the French Minister toured the hospital's maternity and Children's wards at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Uasin Gishu County on February 22, 2023.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and the French Minister visited a French owned fertilizer producing and blending plant, Baraka-Timac Agro Plant on February 22, 2023.



PS Njogu launches Boyne Healthcare Centre

By Phylis Githua

Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Roseline Njogu launched Boyne Healthcare-Children Development Center on February 8, 2023 in Kilimani, Nairobi.

The PS also met an impressive team of therapists that will work with the children at Boyne Healthcare.

During the event, the Principal Secretary said that the diaspora-owned facility will improve access to services for families with children with special needs.

Boyne Healthcare is a multi-specialty therapy center which offers services such as:- occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy to help children to achieve and optimize their potential in a child-friendly enriching environment.

The founders of the center are four Kenyans in the diaspora led by Hassan Dugow, whom through their work oversees and based on experience, identified the need for high quality therapy rehabilitation services for children.



PS Diaspora Affairs, Roseline Njogu with Staff at the Boyne Healthcare - Children Development Center on February 8, 2023

Boyne Healthcare is a multi-specialty therapy center which offers services such as:- occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy



The center has created employment opportunities for Kenyans and invested in their up-skilling in training and welcomes the support of the Government of Kenya to enable them to deliver on their strategic goal to provide essential service and offer employment for Kenyans.

The State Department for Diaspora Affairs welcomed the project, which is line with the mandate to mainstream the Kenyan Diaspora into the national development process to encourage investment at home by the diaspora and to facilitate technological transfer.

The mission of the centre is to enable the clients achieve their goals, optimize function and thrive by providing bespoke integrated multi-specialty evidence based rehabilitation and therapy services, that aims to exceed the client's expectation.



Kenya, Finland boost commercial ties

Kenya and Finland have pledged to continue working together to improve and enhance the existing commercial ties between the two countries.

This was discussed when the Finland's Minister for Economic Affairs, Mika Lintila met with Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua on February 2, 2023.

Noting Finland's business engagements in Kenya, the Cabinet Secretary pointed out that Kenya was open to more investments from Finland.

The CS appealed for more commercial engagements in the areas of ICT, technology cooperation, environmental and circular economy, investments and renewable energy.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua hold discussions with Finland's Minister for Economic Affairs, Mika Lintila on February 2, 2023.

Minister Mika Lintila welcomed CS Mutua's invitations to increase trade between the two countries noting that this move would enhance and highly contribute to deepening the existing ties between Kenya and Finland.

Philippines Ambassador calls on CS Mutua



Philippines Ambassador to Kenya, Amb. Marie Charlotte Tang pays a courtesy call on CS Dr. Alfred Mutua on February 14, 2023.

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua hosted the Philippines Ambassador to Kenya, Amb. Marie Charlotte Tang when she paid him a courtesy call on February 14, 2023.

The two discussed ways in which to invigorate bilateral relations between the two countries on areas of Trade, Security, Healthcare and Tourism.

Dr. Mutua commended the Philippines government for their Diaspora management policy and expressed interest for Kenya to learn from their experiences as Kenya develops capacity to strengthen its Diaspora policy.

He added that under President William Ruto's administration, Kenya hopes to strengthen relations with the Philippines in areas of Trade, Tourism and Culture among others.

They discussed on the forthcoming Inaugural Kenya-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation scheduled to take place from February 20-21, 2023, as an opportunity to deepen the relations of both countries.

Ambassador Tang also highlighted the many similarities between the Philippines and Kenya including adherence to the democratic values and expressed for increased cooperation of both countries in the coming years.



Diaspora Affairs PS makes maiden tour to Kigali

By Phillip Opwora

Ms. Roseline Njogu, PS State Department for Diaspora Affairs began her Africa maiden tour in Kigali, Rwanda, from February 15 to 18, 2023.

The PS was welcomed to Kigali by Amb. Philip Githiora, High Commissioner of Kenya to the Republic of Rwanda.

Her first engagement was at the High Commission, where she held a meeting with the Mission's staff to discuss the deliverables, challenges, and solutions for Kenyan Diaspora in Rwanda.

The Mission staff expressed gratitude for the visit and for her choice of Kigali as the first destination of her tour in Africa.

PS Njogu thanked the team for their achievement regardless of the challenges they face in execution of their mandate.

Rwanda is a host to more than 8,000 Kenyans who rely on the High Commission for consular services and any other assistance.

In this regard, the Principal Secretary assured the High Commissioner and his staff, of the support by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in order to continue serving all Kenyans living in Rwanda efficiently and effectively.

Later, the Principal Secretary together with the High Commissioner, paid a courtesy call on Ms. Clementine Mukeka, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda.



PS Rosemary Njogu, Amb Githiora and staff members at the Kenya High Commission in Rwanda

PS Njogu appreciated Rwanda's warm hospitality to the Kenyan Diaspora and further called on targeted collaboration that would enhance Diaspora engagement with the East African Community.

The discussions involved exploring ways of enhancing cultural engagement, reintegration of the Diaspora who return or plan to return back home. This provided an opportunity for further benchmarking based on Rwanda's successful reintegration of its Diaspora through the "Come See, Go Tell" programme among other initiatives.

The programme successfully aimed at inviting Rwandan refugees still living abroad to return home and witness how far Rwanda had progressed in terms of stability and development so as to return to their host countries to inform their fellow citizens about the reality witnessed.

Among other important issues, technology, skills transfer and exchanges were also discussed. The two counterparts agreed to follow through and firm up key issues discussed through the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation.

Thereafter, PS Njogu and Amb. Githiora, proceeded to Mt. Kenya University of Rwanda (MKUR), where they were welcomed by Prof. Edwin Odhuno, Vice Chancellor MKUR.

Prof. Odhuno shared a brief history of the University and the milestones achieved through the journey in Rwanda. He also informed the delegation about upcoming development projects of the University and the possibilities of its future as well as the impact locally, regionally and globally.

The Principal Secretary congratulated the Vice Chancellor on the initiative of expanding to Rwanda and the steady progress made that continues to result to multifaceted positive outcomes to various stakeholders including the host country, Rwanda.

She also proposed future collaborative engagements between the University and the State Department for Diaspora Affairs which will further strengthen the University's capacity to deliver greater results.

Following the courtesy meeting, the Vice Chancellor took the Principal Secretary and her delegation on a tour of campus facilities. The tour focused on the nursing training department, which is one of the highly equipped and popular courses.

The delegation commended the overall work of the institution throughout the tour. The PS appreciated the Kenyan Diaspora involvement and proposed further academic and cultural exchanges to enrich student's learning experience. *Continued on page 16*



Diaspora Affairs PS makes maiden tour to Kigali

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Later in the afternoon, PS Njogu delivered a public lecture on ***Africa Artworks and the Diaspora: Restitution, Repatriation and International Law at the University***. The lecture was attended by the faculty and students from other universities based in Rwanda.

The PS called on the audience to be proud of their African heritage and culture. She further challenged them to be proactive in ensuring culture is passed down the generations even while abroad as Diasporas in different parts of the world.

The Kenya Diaspora in Rwanda, led by Association Chairman Boniface Mutua, met the Principal Secretary in a town hall meeting held at the Mt. Kenya University of Rwanda.

The Diaspora delivered their requests including streamlining all government services to meet their needs. This came at the backdrop of the challenges of accessing services that are delinked among different departments and are not fully operational online. Discussions also involved important insights on investment in Rwanda and back home, the ease of doing business as well as the welfare of the Diaspora in Rwanda.

The Principal Secretary wrapped up her tour at a cocktail meeting with the Kenyan Business Community in Kigali, Rwanda. The business community was composed of entrepreneurs from different sectors including aviation, education institutions, insurance, hospitality, banking, consultants and engineering.

Kenya participates at the ICGLR peer learning event in Bujumbura



Amb. Catherine Mogaka, Director, EAC and Great Lakes Region

By Irene Kimeu

Amb. Catherine Mogaka, Director, EAC and Great Lakes Region represented the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora affairs, Dr. Alfred Mutua at the ICGLR Peer Learning event on Comprehensive Durable Solutions for refugees held in the Great Lakes Region in Bujumbura, Burundi on January 31, 2023.

While taking the members through the milestones made by Kenyan Government in addressing the issue of durable solutions for refugees, Amb. Mogaka urged Africa to work together in eradicating statelessness.

She highlighted that by December 2022, Kenyan had hosted 574,000 refugees and asylum seekers and provided access to education, medical services and work permits.

Amb. Mogaka also spoke on the Kenya - UNHCR 2015 settlement programme which led to the formation of Kalobeyei settlement, a programme aimed at promoting self-reliance for both refugees and asylum seekers and is run by the hosting counties together with UNHCR.

The Ambassador also addressed the Refugee Act (2021) which came into effect in February, 2022 and has provided reforms in Refugee management with the creation of institutions whose aim has been to enhance service delivery.

“Kenya has developed a Marshall Plan to fully implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and this will provide a guarantee on how to best implement and expand the settlement approach among other programs,” said the Ambassador.

She added that various actions taken by the Government of Kenya in ensuring statelessness and achievement of durable solutions include; Grant of citizenship in March, 2017 to the Makonde people who have been in Kenya since the 1930s; Validation of the Government’s National Action plan to eradicate statelessness in 2019; issuance of Kenyan citizenship to the Shona people in December 12, 2020 same as the other Rwandese nationalities and The accede to the 1954 and 1961 statelessness convention in 2021.

“Kenya once again demonstrated leadership in the aim to end Statelessness when His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto pronounced during the 59th Jamhuri celebrations that the Government would initiate modalities to recognize the people of Pemba as citizens of Kenya “said ambassador Catherine Mogaka.



Kenya condoles with the people of Türkiye and Syria



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with the Turkish Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Subutay Yuksel, who briefed him of the earthquake tragedy in Türkiye - February 7, 2022

By Kawira Githinji

Following the earthquake tragedy which occurred on February 6, 2023 in the Southeastern Türkiye and Northern Syria killing over five thousand people and thousands of others injured, leaving a trail of immense destruction of property, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua announced that no Kenyan had been affected in the crisis.

The Cabinet Secretary added that the ministry had shared an emergency number for any Kenyan, who may be in distress following the earthquake.

Dr. Mutua addressed the Media concerning the earthquake and expressed heartfelt solidarity with the governments and people of turkey and Syria during their difficult times.

"Kenyans share the pain and devastating loss that is coming in the background of an immediate challenging period of Covid-19 and the resultant global economic slowdown," the CS said

He added that the Ministry joins the international community in praying and condoling with their brothers and sisters in the two countries.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with the Turkish Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Subutay Yuksel, during a press conference on the earthquake tragedy in Turkey - February 7, 2022

The CS called upon Kenyans who were able to join hands in extending material support that would alleviate human suffering such as food stuffs, clothing, and financial, medical stuff among others.

Further, CS Mutua said there would be communication on the collection points and that the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Ministry would coordinate with other government agencies to be able to send a search and rescue specialists team to the two nations to assist in the rescue operations.



Kenya to host the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission

By Evans Oguta

The Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua and Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, on February 18, 2023 signed a Host Country Agreement between Kenya and African Union (AU), for the operationalization of a Temporary Secretariat of the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (AACC) in Nairobi.

The signing ceremony took place on the margins of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU in Addis Ababa, making Kenya the first Member State of the AU to sign.

The AACC is a Specialized Agency of the AU established by a Statute approved by the 32nd African Union Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2019.

The establishment of the AACC was spearheaded by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the AU Commission and the Pan-African Federation of Film Makers (FEPACI).

Aptly, Kenya offered to host the Secretariat which will oversee the process of ratification of the instrument as well as the operationalization of this important continental institution that will promote the development and growth of the creative economy.



CS Dr. Alfred N. Mutua and Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, on February 18, signed a Host Country Agreement between Kenya and African Union (AU), for the operationalization of a Temporary Secretariat of the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (AACC) in Nairobi.

This Pan-African Audio-visual and Cinema Commission will perform the following functions: the promotion of research on African Audio-visual and Cinema industries; promotion and distribution of African films throughout the continent and internationally; fast tracking the establishment of the African Audio-visual and Cinema Fund as well as providing technical support and advisory services to Member States for the formulation and implementation of audio-visual and cinema policies.

The AACC is also expected to promote the protection of indigenous knowledge and African oral and written folklore both at the national and continental levels.

During this event, Kenya encouraged other Member States to also sign the statute, and support the work of the AACC.





The African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission dream is finally a reality

By *Martin Wahogo*

In 2003, the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) made a decision in Maputo, Mozambique, to establish an African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission as well as a fund, and mandated the Pan African Federation of Filmmakers (FEPACI) a continental voice of filmmakers from various regions of Africa and the Diaspora and other institutions, to work with the AU to establish the commission. Twenty years later, the dream has become a reality.

On February 18, 2023, on the margins of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Kenya's Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua (an award winning film maker himself), signed the host country agreement between Kenya and African Union (AU), paving way for the operationalization of a temporary secretariat of the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (AACC) based in Nairobi.

H.E. Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development signed the agreement on behalf of the AU. During the same ceremony, Dr. Mutua also signed the statute, making Kenya the first country to sign it. The temporary secretariat is now tasked with getting a further 14 countries to ratify the statute so that the commission can be operational.

It was in 2006, when filmmakers at the African Film Summit hosted by the South African Government in Johannesburg finally made a decision through the 'Tshwane Declaration' to push for the establishment of the African Audiovisual and Cinema commission (AACC).

A year later, in 2007, Ms. Jane Murago-Munene, an award-winning film producer and director, took the bull by the horns and initiated dialogue with the Government of Kenya (GoK) to host the AACC Secretariat in Kenya. Ms. Munene was then serving as the Eastern Africa Region Representative of FEPACI. The GoK accepted the proposal and in the same year, through the Ministry of Information and Communication, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the GoK officially indicated their willingness to host the AACC.

In 2010, Ms. Munene followed up on that decision with a suggestion of Kenya hosting the FEPACI Secretariat in Kenya to facilitate collaboration with the GoK and AU thus fast tracking the establishment of the AACC. In 2012, the Cabinet gave approval to the host FEPACI in Kenya.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and Ms. Jane Murago-Munene

In 2015, a report titled 'The Status of African Film Industry 2015 Report' was developed by a team led by Ms. Munene, and the same team also drafted the statute of the AACC. The team also formed a roundtable of 15 Member States to work closely with them during this process. For the next two years, they worked closely with the GoK and the AU, leading to the 2016 establishment of the AACC as a Specialized Organ of the AU. In 2017, the Statute was finally endorsed by the AU Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sports in Nairobi, Kenya and finally in February 2019, the 32nd AU Assembly also endorsed the Statute.

A February 2018 meeting in Nairobi then drafted the Host Agreement for the AACC Temporary Secretariat in Kenya between the AU Commission, Department of Social Affairs and the Government of Kenya. Ms. Munene, who was by then the AU Focal Point on AACC, was actively involved in AU missions to present the Statute to Governments. The team worked through the Covid-19 period to keep the dream alive and ensure that the signing for the Host Country Agreement took place soon. They worked tirelessly until February 18, 2023, when it was finally signed.

The African film industry is grateful to the individuals who have walked this journey, and we as Kenyans are grateful to Ms. Munene for her tenacity and hard work which has borne fruits and given us the honour of hosting



CS Mutua lauds IOM initiatives in Kenya

Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua has acknowledged IOM's technical assistance extended to the Kenyan Government in areas of border management, migration data collection, and the development of migration policies and programs.

CS Mutua was speaking when he met with Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of International Organization for Migration (UN Migration) who visited the country on February 13, 2023 to launch the Regional Migrant Response Plan in Nairobi.

The Regional Migrant Response Plan will address the most immediate and critical humanitarian and protection needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

It will also support their voluntary return home in a safe and dignified manner, and ensure that they reintegrate back into their communities successfully.

The plan provides a flexible mechanism for all stakeholders to respond to evolving migration trends, and broader humanitarian and development challenges affecting migrants, host communities and the respective governments.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of International Organization for Migration (UN Migration) on February 13, 2023.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with IMO team lead by Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of International Organization for Migration (UN Migration) on February 13, 2023.

Funding will further help efforts towards addressing the drivers of irregular migration and strengthen the capacity of governments in the region on migration management, including in ensuring greater coordination and collaboration.

The two also noted the impact of Climate Change, the changing trends in migration and also reiterated the importance of building a strong position in the South on Adaptation ahead of COP28 later in the year.

The Cabinet Secretary commended the work IOM is doing to support the multiplicity of the crises, particularly the response to the current devastation in Turkey and Syria. He also lauded the impressive work the Medical Centre established by IOM in Kenya was doing to support migrants across the continent.



CS Mutua hosts Middle East Region Envoys



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addresses Envoys from the Middle East region when he hosted them for Lunch on February 8, 2023

In an effort to foster economic and social relations between Kenya and countries in the Middle East region, Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua hosted the Ambassadors from the Middle East region for a luncheon on February 8, 2023.

The CS noted that the region was of particular importance to Kenya given geographical proximities and also due to the fact that 250,000 Kenyans are currently residing and working in Middle Eastern countries.

CS Mutua lauded the long historical ties that existed between Kenya and the countries of the region and called for more people-to-people interactions between the respective citizens.

This would be essential in promoting commerce between the two regions and also crucial in addressing the common challenges such as the fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

The diplomatic relations between Kenya and Arab world are bilateral, whereby both regions strive to benefit from the opportunities created by the diplomatic ties.

"250,000 Kenyans are currently residing and working in Middle Eastern countries"



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Middle East Region Envoys



Australian High Commission opens new chancery in Nairobi



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua gives key note address during the opening ceremony of the Australian High Commission Chancery in Nairobi on February 21, 2023.

By Kawira Githinji

The Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Tim Watts paid a courtesy call on CS Dr. Alfred Mutua at his Foreign Affairs headquarters office on February 21, 2023.

The two discussed a broad spectrum of issues that underpinned Kenya-Australia Bilateral Relations.

The Cabinet Secretary acknowledged the significance of Kenya-Australia relations in Kenya's development agenda and welcomed robust political, commercial and economic engagement between the two countries.

The two ministers noted the role of the Kenyan diaspora in Australia and agreed to work together to promote their welfare as Kenya seeks more opportunities for her nationals.

CS Mutua underscored Kenya's strategic positioning and ease of connectivity and called on Australian businesses to take advantage of this positioning as a gateway to an even wider market through the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The CS additionally called for a strong and revitalised Bilateral Cooperation Framework that gives structure to Kenya-Australia Bilateral Cooperation.

Hon. Tim Watts noted that Kenya-Australia relations were excellent and based on shared values.

He also noted that both countries were keen on positive multilateralism and further pointed out that his government was seeking more engagement with Africa and gave his assurance that Australia viewed Kenya as a strategic partner in this respect.

"Opening of the new Australian High Commission chancery marks a significant milestone in Australia's relationship with Kenya" - CS Dr. Alfred Mutua

Later on, CS Mutua joined Hon. Tim Watts, other officials and invited guests for the opening ceremony of the Australian High Commission in Nairobi.

Speaking at the ceremony, the CS said "the new Australian High Commission building is a symbol of renewed commitment to continue strengthening our friendship, mutual trust and enhance implementation of development cooperation between our two nations for the mutual benefit of our countries and people."

He added that, the opening of the new chancery marks a significant milestone in Australia's relationship with Kenya.

The Chancery will also serve as a base for Australia's relationships with Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda - to which Australia is accredited.





A True Comrade, Dedicated Servant and a Great Soul. GO WELL DAVID



Mr. David Gatuthu

Rest in peace David,
till we meet again.

*"On the happy, golden shore, Where
the night dissolves away into pure and
perfect day, Where the faithful part no
more, By the river sparkling bright, In
the city of delight," meet you there,
dear comrade.*

MF&DA's FSI Pioneers Group

By Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs FSI Pioneers Group

Where do we even start after all this has happened? We were privileged to have worked with David for the last 15 years. When we joined Kenya's Foreign Service in June 2007, we were a group of one hundred and fifteen young officers eager to serve Kenya in the diplomatic arena under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. David was one among us.

While most of us were young graduates who had left college recently, David had prior and extensive working experience in the private sector. In addition, unlike most of us, David had already established his family. This perhaps explained his calmer demeanour as we went through our induction and training process, and later when we started working at the Old Treasury Building in Nairobi.

Despite his experience and exposure in the work environment, David was always amiable and approachable. He blended well in the team and became a go-to person for many of us. This is when we needed advice as we navigated the Government offices and environment.

The journey from a Foreign Service Cadet to an Assistant Director Foreign Service Officer for David and all of us who are his peers, has been a rollercoaster of wonderful, and sometimes challenging moments. However, David has been a great team player who embraced colleagues and always took time to mentor and walk with those who served with him.

He served in many capacities at the Ministry Headquarters and in diverse regions of the world while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and dedication to duty. His rise from a Foreign Service Cadet to an Assistant Director in a period of 15 years, is a testament of his capabilities as a diplomat. His passing on has cut short a promising career trajectory that was headed to greater roles and responsibilities in the public service.

Away from the rumbles and tumbles of the office, David was also a lively person who brightened our social events and activities, with fun and laughter. He was always at the forefront in supporting and participating in team building activities and other events organised to bring us together and enhance workplace cohesiveness.

As his peers, we will miss his energy and lively spirit during various occasions when we gathered to enhance the bonds between us. He also stood with many of us when we went through difficult moments at personal and professional level.

A defining character of David was his generosity and kindness. When he was serving in New Delhi, Los Angeles and London, he would always welcome and host colleagues who were traveling from Nairobi and other capitals for work without hesitation. He would then go out of his way to extend excellent hospitality to his visiting colleagues and support them as they undertook their assignments in these cities. In New Delhi, David always went out of the call of duty to support Kenyan students and the Kenyan diaspora in distress in various parts of India.

As we bid goodbye to our friend, our colleague and a true servant, we pray for the family of David. To the wife Mary, may God grant you strength and wisdom to stand in the gap and to guide your family. To the children, Charles, Ken and Angela, we pray that God's grace be with you as you grow and continue shining the torch of your dad's legacy in all spheres of life. You can count on us any time as friends and colleagues of your Dad. Never hesitate to reach out to any of us if you need assistance, or information as you cope with this untimely loss of your beloved dad.

Finally, we thank God, for the opportunity to have met and worked with David. We will always cherish the moments we shared with him, both at official and personal level.





Emotional Intelligence and mental health in the workplace



By Kawira Githinji

Emotional Intelligence (EI) and mental health are closely related and are very crucial at the workplace.

Emotional Intelligence refers to the ability to understand and manage emotions effectively both in oneself and in others. Good Emotional Intelligence skills are essential for building positive relationships with colleagues and customers, managing stress and communicating effectively.

On the other hand, mental health is crucial in the workplace as it affects an employee's productivity, engagement and well-being. A positive work environment that promotes good mental health is crucial to ensuring that employees are motivated and engaged.

Crucial aspects of Emotional Intelligence in relation to mental health include: -

Self-awareness: Employees should be encouraged to be self-aware of their emotions and how they affect their mental health. This awareness helps them identify any negative emotion they may be experiencing and address them.

To be self-aware, take some time to identify the emotions you are feeling physically and mentally, for example, anger, frustration, or joy. Identify the triggers causing the emotions you are feeling. If feeling frustrated, consider what is causing the frustration, is it a particular task, a colleague or a situation?

When you feel that your emotions are affecting you, take a pause, stay away from the situation or task for a few minutes to calm down and regain composure, this will help you from making impulsive decisions or saying something you might regret. You may consider keeping a journal to record your emotions and how they affect you at work. Writing down your thoughts and feelings can be helpful way to process your emotions.

Always ask for feedback from colleagues or supervisors about how your emotions are affecting your work. Be open to constructive criticism and use the feedback to improve your emotional intelligence.

Stress management: Good Emotional Intelligence skills can help employees manage stress levels effectively and maintain good mental health. In high pressure work environment, employees may face situations that can be stressful.

It is important to identify the source of your stress at work. It could be tasks, a challenging colleague or a deadline. Identifying the source can help you find ways to manage the stress more effectively.

Positioning and organizing your tasks helps you stay on top of your work and avoid feeling overwhelmed. Create a to do list, break down complex tasks into smaller manageable tasks. Take regular breaks during your workday, this will help you recharge and reduce stress levels. Take a walk, stretch or meditate during your break. Practice breathing exercises, take a deep breath and exhale slowly, this reduces stress and helps you stay calm.

Seek support from your colleagues or manager, talk to someone you trust about your stress levels and seek advice on how to manage stress effectively.

Strive to achieve work-life balance. Avoid overworking and take time off when needed. Setting boundaries helps you maintain a healthy work-life balance and prevent burn out.

Empathy: Good Emotional Intelligence skills help employees to understand the emotions of others and respond appropriately. This can foster a supportive work environment where colleagues are willing to help each other work together towards common goals which can promote good mental health.

Listening actively to your colleagues concerns, ideas and feedback is a crucial aspect of empathy. When a colleague shares their challenges or problems with you, try to understand their perspective and show empathy towards their feelings.

Encourage open communication to the workplace where employees feel comfortable showing their thoughts and opinions. This helps create a culture of empathy and understanding.

Offering support to your colleagues when they need it such as check in with them regularly, offering help with a project or lending an ear when they need someone to talk to is important.

Avoid making assumptions or judging your colleagues based on their actions or behavior, instead try to understand the circumstances that may have contributed to their actions. When working on a project or task, collaborate with your colleagues and try to understand their perspectives.

Effective communication: Good Emotional Intelligence skills also help employees to communicate effectively with their colleagues, customers and stakeholders. Effective communication is essential in the workplace as it promotes a positive work environment, foresees good relationships and can help prevent misunderstandings that can negatively affect mental health.

Communicate your message clearly and concisely using simple language to avoid misunderstandings. Practice listening actively, pay attention to what your colleagues are saying, ask clarifying questions and avoid interrupting.

Be aware of nonverbal cues and the cues of others. Nonverbal cues such as facial expression, tone of voice and body language can convey additional meaning in communication.

Choose the right channel to communicate your message, whether it be email, phone or face to face communication. Provide feedback to your colleagues regularly and encourage them to do the same. Be respectful for your colleagues' opinions and perspectives, even if you do not agree with them. Be mindful of cultural differences in communication styles and avoid making assumptions about your colleagues based on their cultural background.

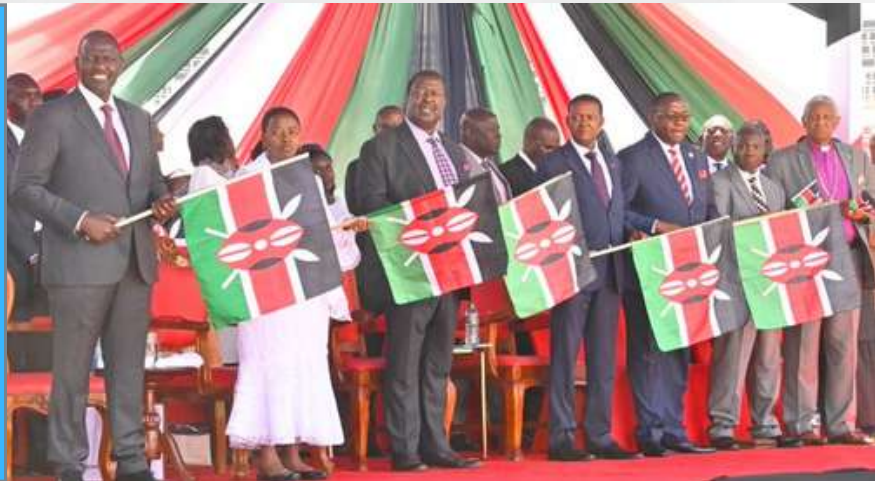
In conclusion, developing and promoting good Emotional Intelligence skills can help improve mental health in the workplace. Encouraging employees to be self-aware, manage stress effectively, empathize with others and communicate effectively can create a supportive work environment that promotes good mental health.



IN BRIEF

On February 14, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua attended national prayers for the country at an event presided over by religious leaders.

The National prayers were attended by H.E President William Ruto, First Lady Rachael Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi and Mrs. Dorcas Gachagua, Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi among other leaders.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua met with the Tanzania High Commissioner to Kenya, Amb. Dr. John S. Simbachawene on February 27, 2023

Deliberations aimed at enhancing the fraternal bonds of friendship between Kenya and Tanzania.

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua held a meeting with Vincent Nmehielle Secretary General, African Development Bank Group (ADB) at his office on February 23, 2023.

At the meeting, the SG briefed the CS on the ongoing consultative mission in preparation of the ADB Group meeting scheduled for 27th - 31st May, 2024 in Nairobi.



Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua during a interview at a local radio station, Musyi FM with presenter Mwenge Mwenge on February 23, 2023.

IN BRIEF

On February 18, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei delivered a statement on behalf of H.E. President William Ruto at the launch of AU-UNESCO strategy on placing equity at the heart of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025.

The launch was presided over by the Presidents of Sierra Leone and Federal Republic of Ethiopia

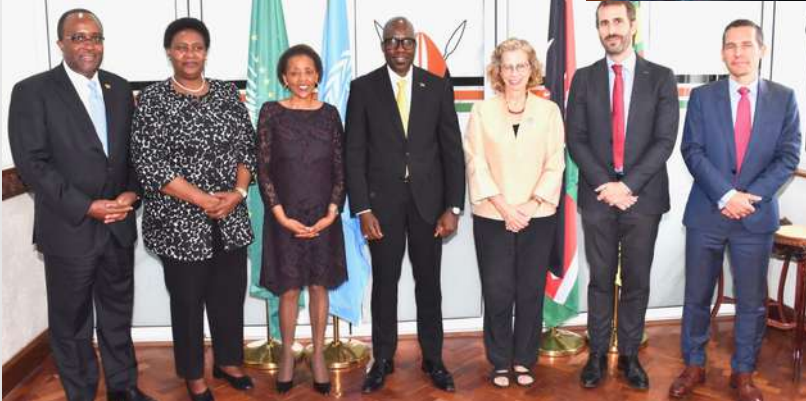


On February 27, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei submitted at the national workshop on carbon removal that climate change is a real threat to global and regional peace and security.

He urged the deployment of technologically enabled geological, biological and ocean based approaches to mitigating the threat.

PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei chaired the status review meeting of the \$500M Kenya-EU Development Cooperation 2021-2027 on Feb 22, 2023.

Tremendous progress registered in the 3 clusters: peace and security; sustainable and inclusive development; economy, trade and investment.



On March 1, 2023 PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei met with UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen.

Discussions focused on the strengthening of UNEP, mitigation of air pollution in Nairobi and benefit sharing under the Biological Diversity Act of 2002. The PS pledged Kenya's continued support to UNEP and the two agreed on continued cooperation.



IN BRIEF

On February 25, 2023, PS Roseline Njogu condoled with the family of the late Ms. Joyce Aoko, who passed on while receiving treatment at Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital.

State Department of Diaspora has been walking with Mama Joyce and the family to provide the necessary support needed in line with its mandate.



On February 27, 2023, State Department of Diaspora Affairs team led by Amb. Oloo delivering top-notch mobile consular services to Kenyans at the Rugby 7s in LA.

PS Roseline Njogu held fruitful engagement with the team from Safaricom PLC led by Director Lucille Aveva on February 25, 2023.

Discussion centered around the Global Kenyan Diaspora being empowered to engage seamlessly back home and ways of partnerships to augment the vision for State Department of Diaspora Affairs



PS Roseline Njogu held a courtesy meeting with Amb. Marie Charlotte G. Tang of the Philippines on February 13, 2023,

They shared experiences on enhancing diaspora engagement, borrowing from the Philippines' rich history in the management of diaspora welfare, rights, and reintegration.

IN BRIEF



On February 9, 2023 Amb Susan Mwangi, Director General, Multilateral, held a meeting with Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center to discuss strengthening of collaboration between Kenya and United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism Regional Office in Nairobi.

Team Kenya in Oman showcasing Kenyan made outfits. Made in Kenya on February 16, 2023



Team Kenya in the Hague showcasing Kenyan made outfits. Made in Kenya on February 17, 2023





ESCALATIONS

**A beautiful stunning village
is no longer at ease
as tensions and uncertainties
rapidly escalates**

**Turbulent restless climate
rising seas and energy crisis
raging droughts and floods
dangerously escalates**

**Prices and inflation
in volatile global markets
fluctuates and oscillates
as competition escalates**

**In pursuit of power
the race for arms
contest for dominance
speedily escalates**

**Conflicts and war
political instabilities
worrying insecurities
increasingly escalates**

**It's time to reflect
and globally escalate
the songs of freedom
and the voices of peace.**

Kimani Mwangi



STATE DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS

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Kenyan in the USA!

We are planning to bring mobile consular services
to your doorstep in Feb/March 2023.

Please sign up here to let us know what services
you need, and where you are to help us plan our resources,

#hudumamajuu

VISION

A peaceful, prosperous and globally
competitive Kenya.

MISSION

To project, promote and protect Kenya's
interests and image globally
through innovative diplomacy, and
contribute towards a just, peaceful
and equitable world.

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