

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LANDMARK AGREEMENTS DURING THE TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO EGYPT BY DR. ALFRED MUTUA, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, today achieved landmark agreements with his Egyptian counterpart H.E Sameh Shoukry, during the ongoing development bilateral discussions in Cairo.

The two agreed on ways to enhance the social, political and economic cooperation between the two countries with emphasis on immediate and sustainable benefits.

**Free Visa Entry**

On visa free entry, they agreed to establish free visa entry for diplomatic and official passports of both countries in three weeks’ time, from April 1st of this year. They agreed to start and finalize discussion towards 100% FREE VISA REGIME between both countries for ordinary passports within six months by October 1, 2023.

This will enhance tourism, grow trade and support economic free flow of people and goods as envisioned by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. In other words, more money in the pockets of our people.

**Kenyan Tea, Coffee, Nuts, Meat, Wheat and Flower Exports to Egypt**

The two Ministers agreed to hold the 7th Kenya-Egypt Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) within weeks, to solidify and expand trade deals between both countries for fast and effective benefits in several areas including;- Export of wheat, Macadamia (and other nuts) and coffee to Egypt where there is a huge market for the products; Introduction of export of Kenyan meat, hides and other meat products to Egypt; Enhance export of value added tea to Egypt which is the second largest importer of tea from Kenya but whose demand for tea is still unfulfilled; Direct export of Kenyan cut flowers from Kenya to Egypt as currently they are transported from Kenyan to Egypt by other nations.

**Fertilizer and Irrigation Programs - Dams, Boreholes**

Egypt as a major supplier of fertilizer, is willing to make available fertilizer for Kenyan farmers.

As part of their support for our 15 billion tree initiative, Egypt will also support Kenya in dam and borehole construction. The two ministers discussed on reclaiming kenyas semi-arid lands using Egyptian modeled irrigation techniques that will see goods being grown in our arid and semi- arid regions.

**Rail, Road and Connectivity**

Dr. Mutua with his counterpart discussed opportunities for Egypt and Kenyan investors to invest in the two countries. Kenya welcomes Egyptian investors to take advantage of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) system to invest in Kenya by building roads, light rail and other infrastructure development.

“Kenya is a hub for regional development and Egyptian companies are welcome to Kenya to set up factories and business because their market will also be the East African Market,” said Dr.Mutua

Kenya is currently organizing a business forum to attract and facilitate investors. Egypt has also welcomed Kenyan investors to invest in Egypt.

**Scholarships and Diaspora Matters**

Egypt will soon let Kenyans know how many scholarships they can offer Kenyan students to study in Egypt in various fields including mechanized agriculture, water, marine engineering, health and other fields. The two agreed on the need for diaspora to have a framework that will enable them to work, trade and interact in Egypt. This will be ironed out in the following few weeks.

**Issues of the Nile**

CS Mutua and H.E. Sameh Shoukry discussed on the sharing of the waters of the Nile and the ongoing unease between Egypt and other nations due to the principles of sharing waters of the Nile and activities that impact water flow. Mutua assured Egypt that Kenya will play its role in finding a lasting solution that is beneficial to all.

“One thing is clear - as a continent blessed with natural resources including natural flow of water, we can find ways of reducing tension and formulating modalities that will be beneficial to all of us.” said Dr. Mutua.

**Green Energy, Reforming The Financial Sector Et Al**

On matters of Green Energy Dr. Mutua assured that Kenya could soon be selling green hydrogen to Egypt. They also agreed to work together to champion for a reformed International Financial System that captures the reality of climate change.

“So far, the level of our relationship has grown and we look forward to reciprocal visits by our Excellency Heads of State as we strengthen our friendship further.” said the CS.

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**MARCH 9, 2023**