

**Republic of Kenya**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CABINET SECRETARY DR. ALFRED MUTUA OFFICIALLY OPENS THE ANNUAL KENYA DIASPORA HOMECOMING CONVENTION IN NAIROBI – DECEMBER 7, 2022**

Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua officially opened the Annual Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention in Nairobi at which he was the Chief Guest.

This year's convention which is running between 7th and 9th December, was themed "Inclusive growth leveraging diaspora resources" was being held at Ole-Sereni hotel, Nairobi.

In his speech, Dr. Mutua said that this year's theme is in sync with President's Ruto's government policies which have identified the importance Kenya's diaspora population plays in the economy.

During the opening ceremony which was attended by among other guests, the newly appointed PS of Diaspora Affairs Ms. Roseline Njogu, US Ambassador H.E. Meg Whitman, some members of the Committee on National Security, Defense and Foreign Relations, Dr. Shem Ochuodho, the Global Chair of the Diaspora Association, CS Mutua noted that the Ruto administration created a new State Department specifically for Diaspora Affairs because of the critical role the diaspora plays.

He took time to share some of the things they are planning for the Diaspora State department as he introduced the newly appointed PS.

Dr. Mutua, while describing himself as a product of the diaspora shared his personal experiences and encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunities being provided by the government to not only grow themselves as individuals but also come back home and help grow our nation.

Acknowledging the role of the diaspora, Dr. Mutua promised to provide more support for Kenyans through the missions abroad "in order to mainstream and empower Kenyans abroad," he further stated.

Noting that Kenya has an estimated 3million people living and working in the diaspora, whose remittances total over 300 billion shillings, he announced the setup of new Diaspora offices in Kenya missions abroad.

"We'll be posting officials starting with 20 missions, and we'll have a diaspora department in all our missions very soon.” Dr. Mutua said.

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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