

# Diplomacy

ENEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs



Charting a Limitless,  
Sustainable Future  
Together



## EXPANDING SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY



**AMB. NANCY KARIGITHU**

Candidate for the Position of IMO Secretary General

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## Editorial Team

Chair Editorial Board : Amb. Isaiya Kabira  
Editor : Victor Musembi  
Design & Layout : Kawira Githinji  
Photography : Andrew Kuria

Content Developers : Pauline Opemo, Fartun Dahir,  
Irene Kimeu, David Gatobu, Phillip Opwora, Evans  
Oguta, Kawira Githinji, Andrew Kuria

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CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addresses delegates during the official campaign launch for Secretary General of International Maritime Organization - Amb. Nancy Karigithu on May 17, 2023.

# CS Mutua presides over the official campaign launch for SG IMO

By Kawira Githinji

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, has reiterated H.E President William Samoei Ruto's endorsement for Amb. Nancy Karigithu's bid to lead the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as Secretary-General for the period 2024-2027.

"In nominating Amb. Karigithu, Kenya and the African Union is presenting to the global maritime community a highly competent and qualified candidate who has immensely contributed to the global maritime issues," said the President in his re-affirmation message.

Speaking to delegates on May 17, 2023 at KICC during the official launch of the campaign for Amb. Nancy Karigithu for the Position of Secretary General of the IMO, CS Mutua noted that, Amb. Karigithu's candidacy had also been endorsed by the African Union which is a reaffirmation of the trust that the AU has in Amb. Karigithu's leadership abilities in the pursuit and advancement of the International Maritime Organization.

"Amb. Karigithu's decision-making experiences and steady demeanour will certainly stand the global maritime welfare in good stead," the CS said, adding that Amb. Nancy Karigithu's candidacy provides a firm, dependable and experienced safe pair of hands.

Amb. Nancy Karigithu endorsed for Secretary General, IMO

In accordance with International Law, CS Mutua reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the protection and promotion of shared and common maritime security interests that will enable optimal exploitation of the Blue Economy.

Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs also made a pitch for Amb. Karigithu's candidature, saying that "Nancy will no doubt bring her immense experience in maritime affairs to bear on IMO," he stressed that, "Kenya and Africa strongly endorse her."

Speaking during her launch event at KICC, Amb. Karigithu exuded confidence of her election victory for the Agency's top seat.

"I strongly believe that with my experience in the maritime sector spanning over 36 years, I am in a position to become the next Secretary General of IMO. I have the necessary competency and attributes for this top UN position," said the Ambassador.

Amb. Karigithu is eyeing to take the top leadership in the UN body from its current holder, South Korean National, Mr. Kitak Lim, whose term ends in December 2023. This year's elections are set to take place at the organizations London headquarters on July 18.





# Kenyans to have access to trade and jobs in Canada



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with his Canadian Counterpart Hon. Mélanie Joly in Montreal, Canada on May 15, 2023

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs made an official visit to Canada where he met with his Canadian Counterpart Hon. Mélanie Joly, on May 15, 2023 and deliberated on the progress made toward achieving the common goals as envisioned under the Kenya-Canada Binational Commission.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to jumpstart the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA) and further discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, agriculture, education (TVET), immigration, climate change, the blue economy, culture tourism, international politics, peace and security, water (dams) development and production of Green hydrogen.

They agreed on several measures to encourage Kenyans to live and work in Canada. CS Mutua informed that both teams would finalize on a system where Canadian curriculum will be incorporated in Kenya's Technical Training Colleges (TVETs) so that by the time a student graduates they are prepared and have the Canadian minimum star fares necessary to quickly integrate in the Canadian labor market.

The CS highlighted that Canada has been a tremendous development partners for Kenya and thanked them for their assistance, saying he looked forward to a stronger relationship in several areas, including the development of water (dams), the creations of green hydrogen and others.

The Cabinet Secretary launched the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) in Canada on May 16, 2023. The initiative intends to make Consular Services more accessible to Kenyans living abroad, wherever they may be.

The services offered include processing of E-Passports, National Identity Cards, Birth Certificates, counselling, advise services on pressing matters and any other engagements with the Diaspora. The MCS kicked off in the USA in April 2023. Similar mobile consular services are intended to be launched in the Middle East, Australia, Africa and Europe.

Later, CS Mutua met with Kenya High Commission staff in Ottawa and expressed his gratitude for the excellent work they continue to do in promoting and projecting of Kenya's interests in Canada. He committed to ensure that all Kenyan missions abroad are well facilitated to deliver on their respective mandates.

On May 16, 2023, CS Mutua held consultations with the Honourable Sean Fraser, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. They agreed on the various migration opportunities for Kenyans to live or work in Canada.

"I was pleased to learn that there are job opportunities in Canada in variety of economic sector and that Kenyans can visit Canada for work or study." CS Mutua said.

The CS advised Kenyans to exercise caution while dealing with agencies that claim to be recruiting for Canadian companies. He added that some rogue agencies have duped several Kenyans and called on people to use vigilance to avoid fraud.

The CS promised to offer a list of Canadian Government approved consultants according to the College of Immigration and Citizenship.

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# Kenyans to have access to trade and jobs in Canada

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The Cabinet Secretary also met with Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Businesses, Export Promotion and International Trade of Canada, in Ottawa City. They talked about ways to expand trade and investments connections between Kenya and Canada.

They agreed to pursue negotiations on Kenya-Canada Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA) to pave way for a new wave of FDI and Trade for Kenya and committed to have the framework signed before the end of 2023.

CS Mutua welcomed the Canada Government's assistance to support Hustler Fund, the flagship bottom up Kenya Kwanza economic model of His Excellency the President William Ruto that provides credit to small and medium enterprises. Kenya will also work together with Canada for expanded trade and economic collaboration under the Canada Africa Economic Cooperation Strategy.

The CS asked Canadian investors to take advantage of Kenya as a strategic gateway to Africa to make investments in Konza Technopolis and Special Economic Zones and get access to the continent's market of more than 1.3 billion people, particularly investments in the agricultural sector.

The CS also urged Canada to advocate for favourable international finance system within the G7 to enable developing countries to access affordable credit within the Multilateral system.



*CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, with Kenya High Commission Staff in Ottawa on May 16, 2023.*

The two Ministers committed to work together in the fight against climate change by investing more in renewable energy for sustainable development.

The CS also held discussions with Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Canada's Minister of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion for Canada, on May 14, 2023. Their deliberations centred on how Kenya can gain a better footing in Canada and how a strengthened diplomatic relationship would benefit both Kenyans and Canadians.

The Minister informed CS Mutua of the numerous pathways Kenyans can use to migrate and quickly get jobs in Canada. They also discussed ways to attract investors in the housing and other sectors.

"Canada is a rich and powerful nation, a member of the G7 and a major player in the economic order of the world. Unfortunately, Kenya has not capitalized on this advantage that Canada provides," CS Mutua said

The CS congratulated the Honourable Minister for his efforts to make Canada a magnificent nation for all people, noting that he is a friend of Kenya and Africa.

The Kenyan High Commissioner to Canada, Amb. Immaculate Wambua, the Kenya Honorary Consul for Kenya in Canada, Mr. Sunir Chandaria, and other Foreign Affairs representatives accompanied the Cabinet Secretary on his official visit.



# PS Sing'oei makes successful official visit to the UK

By Kawira Githinji

From May 7 to 13, 2023, Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs, made a fruitful trip to London, where he met with senior officials of the United Kingdom.

On May 9, 2023, as part of the visit, the Principal Secretary paid a courtesy call on Lord St. John of Blesto, a member of the House of Lords, the Upper House of the British Parliament. The two explored opportunities in an array of cross-cutting areas of mutual benefit to Kenya and UK including climate change, renewable energy, digital transformation and smart cities, trade and investment.

PS Sing'oei and Sir Phillip Robert Barton, the Permanent Undersecretary for Foreign Commonwealth and Development Affairs met on May 10, 2023. The PS hailed the Kenya – UK relations as being one of the strongest anchored on Kenya – UK Strategic Partnership 2020 – 2025, which was launched on January 21, 2020 in London.

The PS underscored the necessity of reviving bilateral collaboration between the two nations who also informed that the Kenya-UK Strategic Partnership is anticipated to undergo a midterm review to define areas that demand more focus in terms of bilateral engagements.

Sir Barton stated that Kenya is a crucial ally of the UK in the Eastern and Horn of Africa region. He indicated that the UK is committed to collaborating closely with Kenya on major international issues like terrorism, cybercrime and climate change. He praised Kenya's function as a regional peace anchor.

Later, the Principal Secretary held a meeting with Prof. Luis Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General of the Commonwealth. Discussions centered on issues of mutual interest within the framework of the Kenya- Commonwealth relations. PS Sing'oei expressed his gratitude for the continued support and partnership between Kenya and the Commonwealth in areas of constitutional reforms, institutional building and supporting of the national reconciliation and development.



*PS, Dr. Korir Singoei gives a keynote address at the Africa Debate in London on May 11, 2023*

The PS commended the Commonwealth for choosing Kenya as its East African hub for the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC). He stated that the Council will promote trade and investment by positioning the region strategically. He underlined Kenya's commitment to working closely with the Council to put in place initiatives that will encourage international investors and partners to capitalize on the opportunities arising from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement within the region.

In a meeting with Mr. Xiaojie Zhang, the Director of Technical Cooperation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). PS Sing'oei thanked the IMO for working closely with Kenya in the areas of technical cooperation especially in strengthening institutions tasked with supporting and regulating maritime activities.

The PS emphasized that, Kenya has taken the initiative in Africa towards climate change mitigation and hosts the Maritime Technology Cooperation Center (MTCC) Africa, one of the five centers that make up the Global Maritime Network, which was established to support the strategy to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. He expressed gratitude to the IMO for providing training and scholarships to Kenyan seafarers and maritime personnel.

*continued on page 7 ...*



# PS Sing'oei makes successful official visit to the UK

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PS Korir Sing'oei met with the Kenya High Commission staff in London on May 9, 2023

The PS visited the Kenya High Commission staff in London on May 9, 2023, and offered his condolences for the passing of their colleague David Gatuthu. He stated that the Ministry will continue to take steps to ensure the wellbeing of employees at both Ministry headquarters and overseas Missions.

He praised the personnel for their productive work and asked them to keep serving as the forerunners and frontline representatives of Kenya's interests in the UK.

Additionally, he discussed H.E. President William Ruto's foreign policy priorities, which include addressing climate change, increasing trade, resolving regional security issues, and reforming global governance institutions to make them more fit for purpose.

Further, PS Sing'oei gave a keynote speech at both the Chatham House as well as the AfricaDebate 2023, London. Discussions at Chatham House focused on Kenya's perspective on regional, bilateral and multilateral issues. The audience appreciated that dynamism of Kenya's Foreign Policy and Kenya's leadership role in advancing the peace and security agenda at the regional level.

During the AfricaDebate, the Principal Secretary strongly vouched for Kenya as a favourable Trade and Investment destination in Africa. He shared Kenya's success story in technology and innovation as well as the green energy grounding this success on institutional strength and strategic political visioning.

H.E. Manoah Esipisu, Kenya's High Commissioner to London, Mr. James Kiiru, Director Africa and AU Directorate, Ms. Mwendu Mwendwa, Deputy Director of the Principal Secretary's Office, and Mr. Wario Guyo, Europe and Commonwealth Directorate, accompanied the Principal Secretary during the official visit.

## Kenya, Colombia sign MoUs

The Deputy President, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, hosted Colombia's Vice President, H.E. Francia Marquez Mina, for political discussions at the Deputy President's official residence in Karen, Nairobi on May 15, 2023.

The discussions culminated in the signing of MoUs and Declarations for collaboration and cooperation.

H.E. Gachagua said, these frameworks now offer a basis for working together in agriculture, health, affordable housing, culture, education and training, and sustainable tourism, among other areas.

"It is a bold step that will directly contribute to the realisation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda," the DP said, adding that, "We look forward to fostering the existing relations between the two countries in dignifying our people."



PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei joined H.E. Rigathi Gachagua during the political consultation with Vice President of the Republic of Colombia H.E. Marguez Mina on May 15, 2023 at the Deputy President's official residence



# Kenya celebrates African Day 2023

By Irene Mueni

On May 26, 2023, Amb. George Orina, Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs accompanied by Amb. Jean Kimani, Permanent Representative Kenya Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat and Mr. James Kiiru, Director Africa and AU, joined representatives from AU Members States and other members of the international diplomatic community in celebrating the African Day 2023 held at AU-Ibar (Westlands), Nairobi.

The Africa Day celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) and the subsequent formation of the African Union (AU).

The celebrations themed “Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area to bring greater prosperity to the continent” were officially opened by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade, Alfred Ombudo K’Ombudo.

In his speech, PS Ombudo emphasized Kenya’s commitment in advancing Africa through trade, citing that trading among Africa’s states is low compared to trade with the western countries. The PS stressed on the need for facilitation of Visa free movement across African countries and the removal of trade barriers to allow free movement of goods in the continent.

The event was attended by Eritrean Ambassador Beyene Russom, who also serves as the country’s envoy to UNEP and UN-Habitat among other Ambassadors.



*PS, State Department for Trade, Alfred Ombudo K’Ombudo presides over Africa Day celebrations in Nairobi on May 25, 2023.*

He spoke on the necessity for Africa to cooperate in order to develop its economies and ensure its technological development. He went on to discuss the necessity for African nations to support one another and work toward unification.

All Africans, both on the continent and in the Diaspora, get the chance to honor and commemorate the OAU/AU’s founding fathers and mothers for the enormous contributions they made to achieving sovereignty throughout the African continent on Africa Day. Additionally, the festival emphasized African cuisine and culture



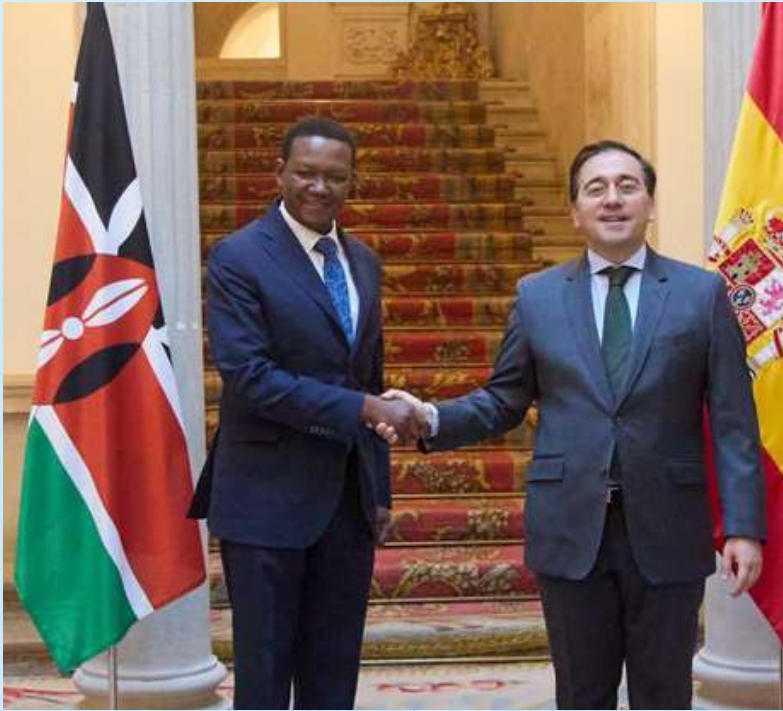
*MFA Amb. George Orina, Amb. Jean Kimani and other staff during the Africa Day celebrations on May 25, 2023 in Nairobi*







# Kenya - Spain enhance Relations



*CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation Jose Manuel Albares in Madrid on April 29, 2023.*

**By David Gatobu**

On April 29, 2023, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua who was on an official visit to Madrid, Spain held bilateral discussions with Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation Jose Manuel Albares in Madrid, where they deliberated on a broad range of activities that anchor Kenya-Spain bilateral relations.

Top of the agenda was signing a Memorandum of Understanding that will see Kenyans trained in Spanish language. This will enhance Spanish as a major language of study in Kenya and open up opportunities for Kenyan youth abroad.

They discussed the various partnerships and commitment by Spain towards Kenya which includes funds for improving the railway system and roads (in particular an overpass at Junction Mall area of Nairobi's Ngong road).

The two Foreign Ministers also reviewed the trade partnership where 1,000 companies sell their products to Kenya every year and deliberated on how Kenyans can sell their products in Spain.

On his part, the Spain Minister informed that Kenya is at the forefront of their relations and investment in the African continent. CS Mutua thanked the Spanish government for their support and dedication to Kenya.

On the margins of the visit, Dr. Mutua presided over the inauguration of the Kenya – Spain Joint Business Forum in Madrid, Spain aimed to woo Spanish investors and people to Kenya.

The well-organized event at the Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations (CEOE), (Spain's equivalent of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), attracted and brought together significant investors and captains of industry from all economic sectors in Spain.

Speaking at the event, CS Mutua noted that Spain, a country of 47 million people, received 71.6 million tourists last year 2022. Their average before Covid-19 was 76.5M. By contrast, Kenya, with a population of 53 million people and endowed with beaches, mountains, flora and fauna second to none, received only 1.5 million tourists in 2022.

“These are some of the reality check statistics that I have in my mind as I formally inaugurate this forum. The balance of trade between the two countries is too low for such a country, to even mention. We have our work cut out for us,” the CS said.

CS Mutua noted that with Spain taking over leadership of the European Union in July of 2023 and Kenya about to conclude the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union, this was a well-timed and vital function for Kenya.

He enumerated the advantages of Spanish companies investing in all sectors in Kenya and discussed how Kenyans can open and establish companies in Spain, as well as supply goods and services.

The Cabinet Secretary presented a case for Kenya and showed the investors that their investment in Kenya would be an investment to tap into the huge 1.3 billion population (market) in the African continent. He informed them that Kenya facilitates business and outlined the new tax measures, incentives and export processing centers benefits.

CS Mutua also met entrepreneurs of the delivery service GLOVO and was humbled by their decision to open their African headquarters in Kenya after listening to his passionate speech while marketing Kenya.

“The opportunities for Kenyans are huge. Already, Spain imports 26% of its fruits from Kenya. We aim to grow this to over 50%. There is a huge appetite for Kenyan avocados on the plates of Spanish meals and this is an area we intend to concentrate and exploit,” the CS said, adding that, “Spain is the second largest consumer of sea food in the world (after Japan) and Kenya plans to be a major provider of fish and other sea foods to the country to meet the huge demands.”

Dr. Mutua was accompanied to the Forum by Spanish Ambassador to Kenya Christina Diaz and Kenyan Ambassador to Spain Michael Oyugi as well as other Ministry Officials.



# Wooing American Investors in New York



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua delivers a keynote speech at the inaugural Kenya-US Business Roadshow at the Harvard Club in New York on April 26, 2023

On April 26, 2023, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, delivered the keynote speech at the inaugural Kenya-US Business Roadshow at the Harvard Club in New York, USA. The roadshow attracted a wide array of American investors and business people who were eager to understand investment opportunities in Kenya.

The launch, curated by US Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman was graced by Hon. Moses Kuria, Cabinet Secretary for Trade and Investments, Hon. Aden Mohammed, former Minister for Trade and Commerce and current Presidential Advisor on Economic Affairs, Mr. Gregory, Chair Prosper-Africa, and prominent Kenyan investors, Mr. James Mwangi, Equity Bank and Peter Njoroge, Twiga foods inter alia.

## Why Kenya?

### Political Biosphere

In his address, CS Mutua explained that Kenya and the US have 60 years of shared values and trust. Over time, Kenya has become the most stable democracy in East Africa with exemplary regard to the rule of law and peaceful transition of political power. Kenya is unique as the only African country privileged to have a Kenya-US Dialogue, an endorsement by the US Government that Kenya is a reliable investment destination for Americans.

### Market Potential

As a result, Kenya's economy is the largest and most diversified in the East African Region, and given her strategic location, Kenya is the gateway to East and Central Africa, a market of over 500 million consumers. Additionally, investors can, through Kenya, take advantage of the enormous market of 1.3 billion people under the AfCTA to expand their businesses and diversify their supply chains.

### Infrastructure

CS Mutua stated that Kenya is open and ready for business and emphasized on the enviable infrastructure of roads, railways, air and sea transportation that connects Kenya with the East African countries and beyond.

### Labour Force

The Cabinet Secretary further indicated that Kenya boasts of a youthful, highly educated, energetic, loyal and innovative labor force that can be leveraged at once to perform, in a "plug and play" fashion.

## Areas of Investment

H.E President Dr. William Samoei Ruto administration is committed to spurring rapid economic transformation of Kenya in order to create jobs for all. To this end, I urged the investors to consider supporting the government by investing in the five priority pillars, namely agri- industrial productivity and food security; universal healthcare; digital superhighway; micro, small and medium-size enterprises; and affordable housing.

## Supply Chain Diversification and Net Zero Emissions

CS Mutua concurred with Amb. Whitman that the Kenyan economy amalgamates the two key ingredients of a resilient economy today, that is, supply chain diversification and net-zero emissions. He highlighted that Kenya has a wide range of value chains for investment. In addition, Kenya is powered by renewable energy at the rate of 93% and with the green hydrogen project, she is poised for 100% green energy by 2030, thus heeding the global call to curtail global warming.

## Ease of Doing Business

The Cabinet Secretary underscored the fact that Kenya is the best place to invest in Africa. The government has moved with speed to ensure that a business can be registered within 48 hours, thus easing Kenya into the top percentile in the Ease of Doing Business Index.

Moreover, the government is committed to institute a simple, fair, consistent and predictable tax regime by June this year (2023) in order to incentivize business people.

In this regard, the Kenyan government has ensured that the Kenya Police Commission and the Directorate of Criminal investigations are independent and autonomous in terms of appropriation of budget funds, thus capacitating them to deal with corruption cases effectively and expeditiously.

## American Companies in Kenya

Kenya is home to a wide range of American companies including Coca Cola, IBM, Google, Uber, Oracle, Wrigley etc with many iconic brands like Levi, Calvin Klein, Lee and Wrangler. The companies relish Kenya's peerless culture and hospitality.

## Hospitality

CS Mutua welcomed the American investors to visit Magical Kenya and invest in the hospitality industry which offers competitive returns in order to create job opportunities for the people of Kenya.



# Kenya scores big in Strategic Bilateral Dialogue with the US



*CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and US Secretary of State Hon. Antony Blinken during a Joint Press Conference on the Third U.S.- Kenya Bilateral Strategic Dialogue held at the State Department in Washington DC in Washington DC on April 25, 2023*

After weeks of friendly negotiations as partners, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, co-chaired the Kenya - United States Strategic Bilateral Dialogue with Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Washington DC on April 25, 2023. The CS was accompanied by CS Moses Kuria alongside other senior government officials.

During the bilateral session, and in five intense Pillar sessions they discussed and agreed on partnership in the areas of Trade and Investments for job creation and visas for youth empowerment, Health, Food Security, Climate Change, Regional Peace and Security.

## **Jobs and Visas**

The United States is setting up a framework so that Kenyans can apply for jobs and speedily get visas to work in the United States. The United States is also working on modalities to speed up visa processing at the Nairobi embassy to reduce the long waiting times.

## **Health and Jobs**

The United States committed to support Kenya's universal healthcare program with a focus on epidemic control and manufacturing of vaccine and pharmaceutical production, which will also create jobs for Kenyans and transfer technology. They agreed on continuation of the support for HIV/AIDS medication to build capacity to produce our own within 5 years. They also hailed the deal with Moderna which will set a vaccine production factory in Kenya from this year.

## **Food Security and Climate Change**

The United States committed to facilitating Kenya on sustainable food production instead of food aid through water harvesting programmes (dams), value addition technology, and agribusiness technology to encourage our youth to embrace farming.

## **Regional Peace and Security**

The United States is one of the valued partners on Kenya's efforts to stabilize the region for peace and security. They discussed many security and defence partnerships.

## **Upgrading of United Nations Office in Nairobi**

Kenya is the only country hosting a United Nations Office in the global south - others being in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. The UN Office in Nairobi was established several decades ago and thus requires upgrading to meet international standards. The United States committed to support the project.

## **Youth and SME's**

The Bottom Up "hustler" economic model was acknowledged as a fantastic and viable model. They discussed partnerships in supporting youth programs, empowering our SME's and growing wealth.

## **Investments**

"Kenya is open for business," CS Mutua told the American government. They held deliberations with the US Commerce department on how to entice American investors to Kenya. They were updated on US programs that can support American businesses to come to Kenya.

The CS expounded on the fact that with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement, Kenya can be used as the hub for reaching the 1.3 plus billion African market. He explained the various Kenyan incentives that are second to none, and said he expects an inflow of American firms opening up businesses in Kenya.

"This is just a summary of over 50 specific issues we discussed and agreed on. Kenya is the only African country with this Strategic Bilateral Dialogue with the United States and we view the US as a great friend and partner" the CS stated and thanked Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Molly Phee, US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman and their teams for the warm welcome.



# PS Njogu speaks at the IGAD Forum on Remittances



*PS Diaspora Affairs, Roseline K. Njogu, delivers a speech at an IGAD Forum on May 16, 2023*

**By Phillip Opwora**

On May 16, 2023, the Principal Secretary Diaspora Affairs, Roseline K. Njogu, delivered a speech at an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) forum themed: *'Unlocking the Potential of Remittances for Sustainable Development.'*

The event was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Governors of Central Banks, aimed at exploring ways of promoting economic growth through the implementation of remittance policies and regulations that foster deeper financial markets, streamline supervision, and reduce transfer costs.

During her address, the PS raised concerns expressed by Kenyans living abroad regarding the high cost of remittances and issues related to double taxation. In light of this, she urged the stakeholders present at the forum to explore measures that would facilitate easier and more affordable remittance processes for the diaspora.

PS Njogu in her speech drew attention to the significant loss of revenue experienced by countries in the IGAD region due to the continued usage of informal channels by Diaspora communities to send money back home. She expressed her support towards efforts aimed at addressing the challenge of monitoring remittances that are difficult to track.

The Principal Secretary reiterated the need to address the issue of fragmented laws governing the licensing of remittance services. The meeting also highlighted other areas of concern such as the incompatibility of payment systems and the lack of comprehensive data on remittance flows.

Consequently, her speech underscored the importance of developing effective strategies to enhance efficiency, affordability, and transparency of remittance processes. While addressing the challenges associated with remittances which includes high costs, informal channels, and regulatory fragmentation, the forum sought to unlock the potential of remittances for sustainable development and economic growth in the IGAD region.



*PS Roseline Njogu joined Central Bank Governors from the IGAD Region and other stakeholders at the closing of the Harmonization of Remittance Policies in the IGAD regional meeting in Nairobi on May 16, 2023*



# MFA Staff plant trees at Uplands Forest in Lari

By Evance Oguta

Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing'oei, on April 21, 2023, led staff of the State Department for Foreign Affairs in launching Tree Planting Day at Uplands Forest Block in Lari Sub-County. During the event over 2000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted.

The event themed, "Towards 15 Billion Trees by 2032." was in response to the Special Presidential Programme of the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign that seeks to increase national tree cover to 30% by 2032.

"Planting a tree, is the first and most critical step in a journey towards ecological restoration, resilience enhancement and sustainable development," the PS said.

"This has been a great opportunity to not only preserve the environment but also to connect with the Kenyan communities locally and abroad," the PS added.

Tree planting day is a tradition in the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs that is undertaken annually as part of its contribution towards environmental preservation. This activity is a commitment in the Ministry's Performance Contract.

The State Department partnered with the Kenya Forest Service and the Green Africa Foundation to realize this goal. The community also came in handy as the custodian of this resource to ensure that the seedlings have not only been planted but also grown. Prof. Wangari Maathai once said, "Until you dig a hole, plant a tree, you water it and make it survive you have not done a thing."

The PS recognized that Kenya's forest cover was insufficient and pushed the staff and locals to plant additional trees to increase the country's tree canopy. He stressed again how determined and firm the Ministry would be in pursuing the objective of environmental conservation.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei led MFA staff in launching Tree planting day at Uplands forest block in Lari Sub-county on April 21, 2023



He added that the Ministry would consider establishing social impact initiatives like educational and medical facilities in the community where such environmental and social obligations are carried out.

PS Sing'oei indicated that a side event for the upcoming Africa Climate Summit, which would take place in Nairobi in September of this year, will involve planting trees at the Ministry's 25 hectares of forest block in Lari.

The Summit will generate momentum for the 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27-UNFCCC) and serve as a significant indicator of Kenya's commitment to environmental preservation with a view to building on achievements and successfully addressing the challenge of climate change.

Accompanying the PS were Ambassadors, Directors and Heads of Divisions.



# Evacuation of Kenyans from Sudan

By Kuria Muigai

The first cohort of evacuees from Sudan were received by Defence Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Aden Duale, Director, Diaspora Affairs Amb. Washington Oloo and other senior government officials from KDF, Ministry of Interior and Red Cross on April 25, 2023.

The 39 were all students at the International University of Africa, Khartoum. They were rescued at the Paloich Airport, South Sudan by the gallant Kenya Air Force. The Cabinet Secretary urged Kenyans stranded in Sudan to continue registering with the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, for logistical purposes.

CS Mutua said evacuation efforts were to continue until all Kenyan were safe. "We're evacuating those still in Sudan as well as those who are within border towns in South Sudan and Ethiopia," the CS said.

"The Government of Kenya wishes to thank our friendly neighbouring nations which have not only opened up their borders to enable Kenyans cross their borders, but have also granted permission for Kenyan planes to overfly their airspace as we continue evacuating stranded Kenyans in Sudan to safety," CS Mutua stated.

CS Mutua called upon all Kenyans in Sudan who have not registered their details with the Embassy, to do so immediately, so as to enable smooth planning for their evacuation.

He thanked and encouraged the Kenya Foreign and Diaspora staff in the missions in various nations, plus the multi-agency teams in Nairobi for the seamless co-ordination.

On April 27, 2023, Kenya through the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs facilitated evacuation of more nationals and personnel of United Nations, Agencies, the Diplomatic Corps and International and Regional Organizations accredited to Nairobi who were trapped in the Sudan conflict.

The evacuees were received at JKIA by Mr. Simon Chelgui, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Ms. Roselyn Njogu, Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs.

A special multi agency team is in place to facilitate entry, departure, transit and movement within Kenya of affected staff and dependants.

As a result of this coordinated effort the Government through the Ministry was able to coordinate arrival of 342 evacuees who arrived from Khartoum.

The CS reiterated Kenya's commitment to ensuring the safe return of all Kenyans and other nationals that wish to return from Sudan to Kenya.



Hon. Aden Duale, Director, Diaspora Affairs Amb. Washington Oloo and other senior government officials from KDF, Ministry of Interior and Red Cross received the first set of evacuees from Sudan on April 25, 2023.



On April 27, 2023, Simon Chelgui, CS, Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and PS for Diaspora Affairs Rose Nogu received evacuees from Sudan at JKIA



On May 11, 2023, PS Rose Njogu together with the multi-agency team received 56 evacuees including citizens from Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania.



# Kenya - Netherlands enhance ties

By Sophia Wamuti

The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei, accompanied by Kenya's Ambassador to The Netherlands, H.E. Margaret Shava met with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Maarten Brouwer on April 17, 2023, at the Ministry Headquarters.

Deliberations between the two centred on shared priorities between Kenya and the Netherlands, mitigating issues of climate action and development cooperation portfolio that targets water management, food nutrition, and climate adaptation.

The Dutch Ambassador briefed on his country's extensive development cooperation portfolio targeting water management.

He added that the Government of the Netherlands was supporting climate adaptation at the grass-root level through Financial Local Led Climate Action (FLOCA). The PS agreed that this aligned well with the Kenya Government's agenda.

On matters of health cooperation, Amb. Brouwer affirmed that the Dutch private sector was working to empower various hospitals of levels 2-4 and referrals in various counties.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei with H.E. Amb. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Kenya on April 17, 2023.

He added that, the companies conducted a week-long trade mission in the country that aimed at boosting trade and investments between the two countries. They also met with key stakeholders in other healthcare facilities in Nairobi and Kisumu.

On trade and investments, PS Sing'oei hailed the strong trade relations between Kenya and the Netherlands showcased by the large footprint of Dutch companies in the country. He welcomed more investments in the sectors of renewable energy and water.

The PS stated that he anticipated ongoing progress in the areas of mutual commitment, strengthened business ties, and increased participation in international governance.





# The 2023 Mo Ibrahim Governance Weekend

By Evance Oguta

The 2023 Ibrahim Governance Weekend (IGW) was hosted by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation from April 28 to 30 2023 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) and Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi, around the theme of “Global Africa”.

IGW is the flagship event of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, held every year in different African country. The three-day event convened prominent African political and business leaders, representatives from civil society, multilateral and regional institutions as well as Africa's major international partners to debate issues of critical importance to Africa.

Among high-level participants who attended the forum included; H.E Mousa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice-President of Nigeria, Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Abdalla Hamdok, former Prime Minister of Sudan, H.E Mahamadou Issoufou, former President of Niger, Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and Koen Doens, Director-General for International Partnerships at the European Commission.

In his opening remarks, the Guest of Honour, H.E. President William Ruto challenged the global financial institutions to focus on Africa's underlying potential. He explained that Africa is a promising investment spot that promises a high return hence requires a win-win financial architecture that brings everyone on board.

The President also asked the global financial system to charge developing countries just interest rates on loans. The high interest rates, he said, have made it impossible for developing countries to finance any meaningful development. Further, he urged that good governance should be at the heart of Africa's quest for renewal amid multiple challenges like poverty, climate crisis, civil strife, and economic slowdown.

This year's IGW was centred on the key role that the continent can play, its potential as well as what it requires to offer solutions to the multiplying and cumulative global challenges such as climate change, pandemics and conflicts.



*H.E. President William Ruto speaks during a one-on-one conversation with Sir Mohammed Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of Mo Ibrahim Foundation on the ongoing climate change debate.*

The Forum was divided into five sessions; the first session highlighted the continent's assets and potential, without downsizing the current barriers to achieving this potential.

The second and third sessions invited conversation from a range of actors present in Africa to expose their interest for the continent. The fourth and final sessions explored Africa's current and future position in the multilateral system, the need to amend both the efficiency of the current system, and the rise of alternative “competitors” at Multilateral level.

Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir Sing'oei, joined the panel on harnessing the power of data for Africa's development and shared his perspectives on digitization and effective diplomacy for Kenya. The panel was convened by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to address the data gap in Africa to ensure progress towards achieving Agendas 2063 and 2030.

Sir Mohammed Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of Mo Ibrahim Foundation also held a one-on-one conversation with H.E. President William Ruto, on the ongoing climate change debate – including the value of creating an efficient carbon market – as well as discussing reforms to the multilateral architecture and processes, such as removing the currently punitive assessment of African risk. The President appealed to the international community to take bold steps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Africa's political, business, and civil society leaders who participated in the event reaffirmed their support for a new governance agenda that prioritizes civil liberties, equitable growth, peace, and stability. The leaders also stressed that fidelity to the rule of law, constitutionalism, and political pluralism will be key to the realization of Africa's transformation agenda.





# MAA Festival Cultural Dinner



*PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei hosted the MAA Festival Cultural Dinner in Nairobi on April 5, 2023*

**By Sophia Wamuti**

The State Department of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Maa Educational Trust, hosted the Maa Festival Cultural Dinner on April 5, 2023 in Nairobi.

The Chief Guest at the Dinner was the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Hon. Peninah Malonza, while the host was the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei. The Dinner was also graced by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Maasai community, the private sector, and other notable guests to boot.

CS Malonza and PS Sing'oei announced that the Ministries of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage and Foreign and Diaspora Affairs are organizing the inaugural International Maasai Cultural Festival, slated to take place in August this year. The Maa Festival 2023 (#MaaFest2023) will be a momentous event that will be held in the Maasai Mara to climax with the spectacle of the annual wildebeest migration.

The week-long Festival will provide a platform to promote cultural entrepreneurship where sponsors and locals will sell their products and services that flow back into the Kenyan economy. Additionally, the Festival will celebrate various Maasai cultural activities and fashion on display.

The PS underscored the importance of culture as a powerful diplomatic tool, stating that it is one of the Pillars of Kenya's Foreign Policy. He highlighted the centrality of cultural diplomacy in Kenya's diplomatic arsenal that deepens diplomatic ties across nations.





# CS Mutua meets with the European Parliament Development Committee



*Dr. Alfred Mutua met with the European Parliament Development Committee on partnerships with Kenya on April 3, 2023*

**By Evans Oguta**

A six-member delegation of European Parliamentary Committee on Development led by Vice-Chair Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, visited Nairobi on April 3, 2023 to assess the impact of EU support for Kenya's development goals.

This was in recognition to Kenya as a key economic and political partner for the European Union that plays an important role as a peace broker in the region and as a leader when it comes to producing green energy.

The visit was meant to review the EU development portfolio in Kenya, in particular, the country's agricultural sector, food security and resilience to climatic shocks.

During their visit, the Committee met with Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred N. Mutua and talked about food security and climate change, the importance of investment, and bilateral relations between EU and Kenya.

The CS affirmed Kenya's commitment towards mitigating climate change through initiatives that will guarantee sustainable food security by way of agricultural innovation. He also assured that Kenya plans to build dams that will be critical in tapping rain water for irrigation and other agricultural activities, and asked for EU support in this endeavour as well as on Kenya's 15Billion Trees Initiative and Regional peace.

Dr. Mutua underscored that Kenya is ready for business with the European Union and welcomed Programmes that will spur business and investments in the country.

The CS also informed the delegation that Kenya will be hosting Africa Climate Summit in September, 2023 and welcomed EU support and participation at the Conference that aims at collectively forging sustainable global solutions to climate change.

Furthermore, the European Parliamentary Committee on Development met with their counterparts from the Kenyan parliament, as well as other representatives of the Kenyan government and administration.

They held talks with local civil society groups, officials from the UN bodies in Nairobi, and representatives from EU Member State diplomatic missions and the EU's delegation in Kenya.

As part of the visit, the Committee also undertook site visits to several EU-funded projects to get a better understanding of EU investment in the region, and in particular Kenya's efforts to deal with prolonged drought and the worsening impact of climate shocks.



# Diaspora Engagement in Botswana : A Promising Future for Kenyans Abroad



Deputy President H.E. Rigathi Gachagua and Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu together with Kenya's High Commissioner to Botswana, Amb. Muktar Shidiye in Botswana on April 22, 2023

**By Okara Lumumba**

On the April 22, 2023, the Deputy President, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, together with PS Roseline Njogu and Senior Representatives from the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, visited Botswana for a diaspora engagement event held in Gaborone.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by the Kenyan High Commissioner to Botswana, H.E. Mohamed Muktar Shidiye, as they set out to discuss issues affecting Kenyans living in Botswana.

One of the critical issues that H.E. Gachagua pledged to tackle was immigration. He promised to dispatch an immigration attaché to the Kenya High Commission in Gaborone, who would help in the facilitation of passports and Identification Cards among other immigration services. Additionally, he assured Kenyans that the government was committed to securing the employment of Kenyans in Botswana and promised to discuss the challenge of work permits with H.E. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi, President of Botswana.

The Deputy President emphasized the government's commitment to focusing on the socio-economic development of Kenyans in the Diaspora as he urged the diaspora to participate in nation-building by saving and remitting money back home. Finally, he acknowledged the challenges faced by the Kenyan diaspora and promised to work with different stakeholders to find solutions that could address their challenges.

During a 'Kamkunji' session, the Deputy President had an opportunity to meet with the Kenyans in Botswana and leaders from the Kenya Botswana Diaspora Association (KEBODiA). He commended the Kenyan community in Botswana and advised counterparts in other Diaspora to learn from their good practices in safeguarding their welfare while away from home. Additionally, he met an exceptional football duo: John Mark Makwata and Duncan Otieno, former AFC Leopard players who have since established themselves in Botswana. The Deputy President acknowledged their success and praised them for being good ambassadors of Kenya.

Speaking during the event PS Njogu, praised the self-reliance and industrious spirit of Kenyans in Botswana and highlighted the efforts of the State Department to champion and protect the welfare and rights of Kenyans living in the Diaspora. This included the extension of consular services to them.

She said, the Mobile Consular Services in the Americas and how her team has been exploring ways to expand these services to other Kenyan diasporas in different regions. She also invited them to participate in the Diaspora Dialogue Series of webinars that include trade, investment opportunities, health, and education.

The diaspora engagement event held in Gaborone, Botswana, was a crucial step towards a promising future for Kenyans living in the Diaspora. It provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the challenges affecting, and opportunities awaiting the Kenyan community in Botswana.

The commitment of the Kenyan government, coupled with the willingness of the diaspora to participate in nation-building, has created a positive outlook for the future.



# Kenya prepares to host AU meeting in July

**By Pauline Opemo**

The African Union Commission (AUC) Assessment Mission took place in Nairobi from 26th to 29th April 2023.

The African Union Commission Preparatory team arrived in Nairobi on April 25, 2023 to take part in the evaluation mission aimed at evaluating the country's readiness towards the upcoming 5th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (MYCM) scheduled to take place from 13th to 16th July 2023 in Nairobi Kenya.

The MYCM is a meeting between the bureau of the Africa Union Assembly and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with the participation of the Chairpersons of RECs, and AU Commission and Regional Mechanisms.

The African Union Commission's delegation, led by Ms. Dalisto Bonongwe, held a series of engagements with the State Department for Foreign Affairs' MYCM planning committee. The committee, chaired by Amb. Josephat Maikara is comprised of officials from the State Department for Foreign Affairs and other government agencies whose roles are critical in the preparation of the MYCM.

During the opening session of engagement with the visiting delegation chaired by Amb. Josephat Maikara, Director General Bilateral and Political Affairs Amb. George Orina, affirmed the country's commitment in playing its part to ensure a successful Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

On her part, Kenya's Permanent Representative to the Africa Union, Amb. Jean Kimani echoed Amb. Orina's sentiments saying that Kenya is prepared to deliver the summit in partnership with the Africa Union Commission.

Chief of Staff Amb. Isaiya Kabira wished the mission fruitful deliberations and also delivered the Cabinet Secretary's assurances of extending the Ministry's support and total commitment as Kenya prepares to host the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

The African Union Commission Delegation and the Planning Committee visited the proposed venue facilities, hotels, hospitals and other institution that will be used during the upcoming conference to ascertain the requirements outlined in the Hosting Agreement.

Closing deliberations of the assessment mission reviewed the Hosting Agreement between Kenya and African Union Commission with a view of finalizing the agreement for signing.

The head of the African Union Commissions' delegation Ms. Bonongwe thanked the State Department for Foreign Affairs for the fruitful deliberations and the hospitality extended to her delegation.

She also affirmed the Africa Union Commission's support in ensuring a successful Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

The Africa Union Commission delegation departed the country on April 29,2023.



# Lets talk about mental health : A ticking time-bomb



*By Fartun Dahir*

In recent years, mental health concerns have skyrocketed, and the stigma surrounding it has made it difficult for people to talk about it. This is especially true in work environments, where it is often seen as an unwelcome topic and can even be detrimental to one's job security.

It is prudent to note that mental health awareness is an important part of maintaining individual and collective wellbeing in any organization.

Mental health is a broad term which encompasses emotional, psychological and social wellbeing. Mental health issues can lead to physical and emotional distress, difficulty in managing daily life, and even loss of life in some cases, which can also have an impact on the morale and performance of individuals in the workplace.

Mental health awareness is critical for promoting a healthy and productive work environment. It includes recognizing the signs of mental illness, developing a support system for struggling coworkers and colleagues, and engaging in meaningful conversations about mental health.

It is also essential for breaking down the stigma associated with mental health issues. By encouraging conversations and discussions about mental health, we can work to destigmatize mental illness and create a more compassionate and understanding work environment.

The importance of having a healthy work-life balance has become increasingly important in recent years. We are constantly surrounded by a barrage of technology that is designed to keep us connected and productive 24/7. This has led to an ever-increasing workload, with more and more people feeling overwhelmed and unable to keep up with their responsibilities.

Factors such as climate change, conflicts and high poverty levels have led to high cost of living and a precarious state of economy.

The ever-growing demand for productivity for a better life has triggered anxiety in a lot of people. For many, it has become difficult to find work-life balance. The pressure to stay productive and efficient, along with the demands of a job, can lead to burnout and even depression.

The idea that we must be constantly working and striving for success has created a culture where we feel like we have to put our own well-being on the back burner. This can lead to people neglecting their mental health and ignoring the warning signs of impending burnout.

It is essential that we take time to care for ourselves, both physically and mentally. This can be done by making sure that we take regular breaks, get enough sleep, eat healthy meals, exercise and engage in activities that bring us joy.

Taking the time to unwind and relax can help to reduce stress levels, allowing us to feel more productive and creative when we return to work. We also need to be mindful of our thoughts, feelings and emotions and take the time to talk to somebody if we are feeling overwhelmed or anxious. Talking to a friend, family member or mental health professional can be a huge help in getting through tough times.

It is also important to remember that mental health affects everyone differently, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to tackling it. We must take the time to understand our own needs and find the best way to manage our mental health. We must also be mindful of those around us, and offer support and understanding to those who are struggling.

Finally, let me say that not talking about mental health is like a ticking time-bomb that can lead to catastrophic consequences.



# IN BRIEF

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei confer on the sidelines of the - US Bilateral Investment Dialogue in Washington DC on April 25, 2023



On May 3 2023, Dr. Alfred Mutua received the UN Secretary-General H.E. Antonio Guterres at JKIA, who was in the country for a two-day official visit.

The UNSG held talks with H.E. President William Ruto. Top of the agenda being the security and humanitarian situation in Sudan, as well as holding consultations of all the Heads of UN Agencies who were meeting in Nairobi

On May 2, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua received the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio who was on a 2-day official visit to Kenya.

During the official visit, the PM held bilateral talks with H.E President William Ruto on further strengthening ties between the two nations. Additionally, he met with the Japanese business community, young volunteers and start-ups.





# IN BRIEF

On April 6, 2023 PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei bid farewell to H.E Sasirit Tanguirat, Thai Ambassador to Kenya.

The PS lauded the enhanced cooperation between Kenya and Thailand at bilateral and multi-lateral levels especially in education, agriculture, trade and Investment and tourism.

The PS also received a contribution from the Thai Government towards drought mitigation in Kenya.



On April 12, PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei paid courtesy call on Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi and received counsel on various issues relevant to national development and stability.

On April 27, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei with the Staff of our Embassy in Seoul, Korea.

The Ministry is committed to building a strong foreign service focused on enhancing Kenya's strategic interests globally and at home.



On May 3, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'oei was hosted by Ayub Abdikadir on Citizen TV, Day Break where he addressed on issues of regional and global governance and development challenges and foster Kenya's interests.



# IN BRIEF

PS Roseline Njogu (Diaspora Affairs and PS Korir Sing'oei (Foreign Affairs) exchange ideas during the official campaign launch of the Secretary General of International Migration Organization (IMO) - Amb. Nancy Karigithu May 15, 2023.



Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu met Diaspora Affairs staff during a meeting held on April 20, 2023 to welcome new members joining the Department as it continues to be operationalized.

Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu with her colleague Principal Secretaries on Labour Day on May 1, 2023







## **POEM**

### **The power of networking**

**A lone rat found a tall pot full of grain while walking around. He couldn't believe it's luck and was unsure whether to call the clan or keep it's newly found wealth. He decided to eat to do the latter.**

**The rat ate and ate and ate. He couldn't imagine his luck. All he could think of were the days of lack when he struggled to find food and compare them to today when all he could see were days of abundance ahead – indeed, blissful days lay ahead.**

**Day in, day out, he enjoyed his new found wealth as he imagined his friends and brothers still toiling in the real world to find just enough grain to last them a day at a time. He was the luckiest rat in earth.**

**But as life goes, he finally go to the bottom of the pot. There was no more grain, and it was time to go find more.**

**Unfortunately, he'd grown so fat and heavy, he couldn't get out of the tall pot through it's thin mouth. He was trapped. Try as he could, nothing worked. He shouted, he cried, he screamed, but there was no one around to help him.**

**Soon he was hungry, very hungry. As he lost weight and grew thin enough to get out, he also grew weaker and didn't have enough energy to climb out of the pot....it finally dawned on him that the pot could be his grave...that he might die in there.**

**He started sobbing, he regretted having eaten the grain alone – nobody knew where he was. He finally faced the cruel reality that if he'd shared the grain with his siblings and friends this wouldn't have been a problem – after a long time, he finally lay down and waited for whatever eventuality lay ahead.**

**Don't forget to network and don't leave your brothers behind when good fortune falls upon you. They could be your lifeline when the good tidings fade away.**

***By Martin Wahogo***

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS  
HARAMBEE AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 30551—GPO 00100  
NAIROBI  
TEL: +254 20 4949 000  
+254 20 331 8888

Website: [www.mfa.go.ke](http://www.mfa.go.ke)  
Twitter: @ForeignOfficeKE  
Facebook: ForeignOfficeKE  
YouTube: Foreign Office KE