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KENYA HOSTS AFRICAN UNION 5TH MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING

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Editorial Team

Chair Editorial Board : Amb. Isaiya Kabira, MBS
Editor : Julius Bargorett
Design & Layout : Kawira Githinji
Photography : Andrew Kuria

Content Developers :Fartun Dahir, Irene Kimeu,
David Gatobu, Phillip Opwora, Evans Oguta, Kawira
Githinji, Rachel Mugane, Wambui Muchiri, Sophia
Wamuti

Inside this issue ..

Kenya hosts African Union 5th Mid -Year Coordination Meeting	3
CS Mutua meets Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committees	5
PS Sing'Oei meets with Counterparts from the IGAD	6
IGAD Quartet Group of Countries for the Resolution of the Situation in Sudan	7
Kenya continues to stand tall in the midst of protests - CS Mutua says	8
Foreign Service Academy to act as a Diplomatic Hub - PS Sing'Oei says	9
CS Mutua urges envoys to remain truthful	10
PS Sing'Oei graces Bastille Day Celebrations	11
Kenya, Congo hold inaugural JCC	12
Berlin Climate and Security Conference - Nairobi 2023	13
Kenya Chairs the IGAD Quartet Ministerial Meeting	14
Growing the Bond between Kenya and Ethiopia	
Kenya and Djibouti Bolster Relations	15
CS Mutua attends ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting in Luanda	16
World Scout Parliamentary Union Africa Assembly 2023	17
PS Njogu Explores Economic Opportunities in Hong Kong	18
MFDA adheres to Environmental Management directive	19
Ministry honours retired officers	20
Operationalization of Kenya's Foreign Service Academy	21
CS Mutua's official visit to the Caribbean	22



African Union Member States at the UN Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi County - July 16, 2023

Kenya hosts AU 5th Mid-Year Coordination meeting

By Irene Kimeu

Kenya is privileged to have hosted the 5th Africa Union Mid-Year Coordination Meeting from 13th to 16th July 2023 at the United Nations Office in Gigiri - Nairobi.

African Union Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers and the African Union Commission led by Kenya's President H.E. Dr. William Ruto came together to address among other things critical issues of African integration and division of labour.

His Excellency the President called for a reform of the AU focusing on the body's financial autonomy and cited that Pan-African Movement has always been about sovereignty and agency.

"First and foremost, chronic dependence even on well-meaning partners is inconsistent with the aspiration of independence, sovereignty and agency. And I therefore believe that we must take seriously the recommendations that have been made towards making our organization an organization that stands on its feet, and an organization that is funded by us," said the President.

The Kenyan President pointed to the burden of debt many African countries carry, thereby championing a fair financial system.

The meeting was convened under the AU Theme of the year 2023 'Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area implementation', which aimed at fast tracking the achievements of the flagship projects of the Agenda 2063 and the Africa we want.

The African Heads of State meeting was preceded by the 43rd Ordinary session of the executive meeting which was chaired by Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

CS Mutua called on African Member States to embrace integration, create synergies and also build on comparative advantage which allows free trade area among member states so as to unlock collective socio-economic potential in Africa.

"The destiny of Africa is in our hands to shape it to a place of prosperity, full of socio-economic activities and hope for our people. Present and future African generations deserve to live on a continent of hope and opportunity for all," said Dr. Mutua.

Continued on page 4





Kenya hosts AU 5th Mid-Year Coordination meeting



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua welcomes African Union Member States at the United Nations Office in Gigiri - Nairobi on July 16, 2023

Continued from page 3

The CS underscored the need for African Union Member States to deepen bilateral and multilateral relations citing Kenya's commitment in abolishing Visas to citizens from AU Member states making it easier for investors to easily do business in Kenya and across Africa.

On the sidelines of the #AUMYCM, Dr. Mutua signed the Protocol to The Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to The Pan African Parliament where Kenya shall ratify the protocol by September 2023.

Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), The Regional Mechanisms and the AU Member States attended the Summit

The President of Comoros Azali Assoumani who currently chairs the Union was in attendance. Also present were Bola Tinubu (Nigeria), Abdel Fattah (Egypt), Macky Sall (Senegal), Ismail Guelleh (Djibouti) and Ali Bongo Gabon among others.





CS Mutua meets Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committees



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addressing a joint training forum of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations and the Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers in Mombasa Country on July 28, 2023

By Irene Kimeu

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua met with the Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committees on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations as well as Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers during a two-day training conducted by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in Mombasa Country on July 27, 2023.

Dr. Mutua praised the Committee Members' significant role in carrying out Kenya's Foreign and Diaspora Policy Mandate and in managing the ministry's operations.

"This gathering reinforces and supports His Excellency the President's constitutional mandate as the primary driver of Kenya's Foreign Policy. My appearance here today is, therefore, consistent with the President's philosophy of a whole of Government approach to our Diplomacy and also as guided by the Bottom-Up Economic Model to Governance," said Dr. Mutua.

Strategic issues deliberated on during the meeting included; Operationalizations of Foreign Service Academy; Effective Management of Kenya's Diplomacy and Foreign Policy; Effective Administration of Kenya's expanding Diplomatic Footprint and Leveraging Kenya's Diaspora for effective National Development.

CS Mutua commended the Foreign Service Academy, formerly the Foreign Service Training Institute, for the admirable work it had done in supplying the necessary training and skills to Kenya's Foreign Service officers, who in turn had proven their abilities in the international sphere.

"A group of diplomats from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Somalia, South Sudan, Malawi, Liberia and Mozambique were among diplomats who have received training from the academy," said the CS, adding that, "We have signed MoUs with other countries, where our Academy will offer curriculum trainings in the region including Congo-Brazzaville, South Africa and Eritrea.

The CS urged the committee members to support H.E. the President in pursuing Effective Management of Kenya's Diplomacy and Foreign Policy by supporting his adoption of a bold, robust and resolute foreign policy arena on a global scale.

Dr. Mutua stated that the President's concept and vision have changed the management and administration of our diplomacy through the Bottom-Up Economic Model on issues relating to Kenya's expanding diplomatic footprint.

"The Ministry remains committed to utilizing Kenya's diplomatic footprint to identify markets for Kenyan goods and services, consistent with the Bottom-Up Economic Model, while also advancing and matching the President's bold international vision for Kenya's socioeconomic advancement." the CS said,

"A key national asset in the execution of Kenya's Foreign Policy Objectives is the scale and breath of our diplomatic missions abroad. In this respect, the Ministry remains determined to leverage Kenya's diplomatic footprint to identify markets for Kenyan goods and services, consistent with the Bottom-Up Economic Model," CS Mutua stated.

He further emphasized that the ministry has created a website for the diaspora that offers essential links to employment opportunities overseas in order to effectively harness Kenya's diaspora for national development.

The CS underscored that, this would ensure that Kenyans are aware, connected, and well-equipped with resources when it comes to reliable information on jobs abroad, He highlighted that this complements the ministry's effort to use diaspora networks as intermediaries to find opportunities for Kenyans living overseas. By doing this, Kenyans would have access to a wide range of reputable and interesting occupations.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed Kenya's dedication to maintaining regional stability and security as the cornerstone of Kenyans' economic empowerment. He emphasized that a prosperous region is one that can trade and permit the free flow of people and resources across international borders.

He urged the National Assembly to continue to play a key role in achieving the nation's foreign policy goal.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei officially opens the 17th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) Meeting of the IGAD CEWARN in Mombasa County on July 10, 2023.

PS Sing'Oei meets with Counterparts from the IGAD

By David Gatobu

The 17th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) Meeting of the IGAD CEWARN (Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism) was formally inaugurated and chaired by Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing'Oei on July 28, 2023, in Mombasa County.

The Principal Secretary was joined by his counterparts and representatives from the IGAD Member States in the region namely, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda and Somalia as well as the IGAD Head of Mission to the Republic of Kenya.

PS Sing'Oei recognized the 18th IGAD CEWARN Technical Committee Meeting's work that had taken place prior to the commencement of the CPS meeting and commended the efforts towards the interventions and plans of action it had proposed. He underlined the importance of cooperating to guarantee an appropriate and prompt reaction to conflict.

The PS reminded attendees that for stronger Regional Integration and shared prosperity, a calm atmosphere with opportunities for amicable dispute resolution is essential.



He added that the bottom-up strategy used by CEWARN for early warning and reaction had de-mystified the idea of security and given local communities the capacity to lead the way in securing themselves.

In order to address the high proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), the PS reiterated Kenya's commitment to assisting IGAD's CEWARN in its advocacy for the harmonization of disarmament exercises throughout the IGAD area.

The Principal Secretary thanked his counterparts, the IGAD Heads of State and Governments as well as the entire leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, for standing in solidarity with the people of the region facing different forms and levels of crises and looked forward to a lasting and sustainable peace.



IGAD Quartet Group of Countries for the Resolution of the Situation in Sudan



H.E. President William Ruto Chaired a meeting of IGAD Secretariat Quartet on Sudan in Addis Ababa on July 10, 2023

By Irene Kimeu

The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Sing'Oei on July 10, 2023, accompanied H.E President William Ruto on the 1st Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the IGAD Quartet Group of Countries in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Led by President Ruto, the representatives of the IGAD Quartet Group of Countries discussed in depth on the implementation of the IGAD Roadmap for peace in the Republic of Sudan.

The Summit called for an immediate and unconditional cessation of hostilities by the warring parties and a permanent ceasefire to open humanitarian corridors for aid assistance.

It also condemned the ongoing human rights violations and committed to establish an accountability mechanism in addition to coordinating diplomatic efforts to initiate an all-inclusive Sudanese-owned and led dialogue to address root causes of the conflict for a durable peace in Sudan.

While addressing the meeting, the Chair urged Members of the IGAD Quartet, neighboring countries and stakeholders to support the ongoing efforts towards silencing of guns, resolution of conflict and restoration of the civilian-led democratic transition in the Republic of Sudan.

Parties to the Sudan conflict were asked to declare an unconditional ceasefire.

The Summit strongly condemned the repeated violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) as manifested in the attacks and looting of diplomatic missions and premises in Khartoum and demanded the protection of these premises in areas under the control of the warring parties.

President Ruto said Sudan Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces must also agree to establish a humanitarian zone. He said the move will stop the loss of lives, ease access to public services and facilitate a settlement of the conflict.

Dr. Ruto appreciated the African Union for closely working in coordination with the IGAD Quartet in harmonizing efforts towards the implementation of a common roadmap for the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the Republic of Sudan.



Kenya continues to stand tall in the midst of protests - CS Mutua says



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addressing the Media during a briefing on July 19, 2022 at the MFDA headquarters. With him are PS's Dr. Korir Sing'Oei (Foreign Affairs) and Roseline Njogu (Diaspora Affairs) and Ministry's top management.

By Evance Oguta

Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua has said that Kenya continues to stand tall in the midst of protests organized by the opposition politicians.

The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that despite the protests, the country continues to receive numerous requests for official and State visits as evidenced by H.E. President William Ruto's numerous interactions with the international community. The promotion of Kenya as a desirable trade and investment destination has tremendously benefited from these collaborations.

Speaking during a Media Briefing held on July 19, 2023, CS Mutua regretted that the economy and the people of Kenya are the ultimate victims of these violent protests that were politically instigated by known architects of violence. He advised that only economic growth would guarantee the well-being of the Kenyan people.

The Cabinet Secretary also expressed displeasure with the statement by the Spokesperson of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva that twenty-three people had been killed and dozens injured in the demonstrations.

"Despite the protests, the country continues to receive numerous requests for Official and State Visits."

Dr. Alfred Mutua

"This statement was not only inaccurate, but misleading and appeared to have been written in support of a propaganda campaigns by people opposed to the democratic will of the people," the CS stressed.

He clarified that, what had been witnessed were violent protests with those involved carrying all manner of crude weapons destroying the highway, attacking police and innocent members of the public, looting and destroying private property. "The UN Human Right Spokesperson ought not to have been blind to all these," CS Mutua highlighted.

The CS stated that, going forward, the Ministry has committed to continuing its engagement through the proper channels to make sure that the international community is not drawn into conspiracies intended to destabilize the country.

Furthermore, CS Mutua reassured Kenyans living abroad that the government is responsible for ensuring their welfare as well as warning them to be wary of fake and out-of-date videos that do not accurately portray the state of the nation today.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the government's efforts to preserve the rights of those participating in lawful assembly and protests while upholding public safety, law, and order in accordance with Kenyan law and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.



Foreign Service Academy to act as a Diplomatic Hub - PS Sing'Oei says



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei and Members of of the Departmental Committees on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations and Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers during a joint training forum in Mombasa Country on July 28, 2023

By Kawira Githinji

Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing'Oei presided over the closing ceremony of the two-day joint training of the Departmental Committee on Defense, Intelligence and Foreign Relations as well as the Departmental Committee on Diaspora and Migration Workers held in Mombasa on July 29, 2023.

Speaking during the event, the PS underscored that the training was a great chance to increase knowledge of vital Diaspora Affairs and Foreign Relations.

PS Sing'Oei thanked the two committee chairs for their leadership and emphasized that the meeting also served as a parliamentary session where the ministry carefully listened to members and received guidance from the two committees.

"The candid conversations we have held, have aided in the rapprochement between the Ministry and the House," the PS stated.

PS Sing'Oei was pleased to observe that the training was also a chance for the Ministry to discuss its plans for the Foreign Service Academy, saying that it will act as a model for diplomatic training and center of excellence for research on international affairs across the continent.

He assured the committee that, the Ministry will not duplicate the work being undertaken by the Universities offering International relations related courses but will have in-depth experimental learning, skilling, research and mentorship by practitioner in the field of diplomatic.

Regarding Diaspora Affairs, the PS informed the committee that the Ministry, led by the State Department of Diaspora Affairs, would draft the Diaspora Affairs Bill in an effort to provide a legal framework for the efficient administration of this area with the goal of promising and defending the interests of the Kenyan Diaspora.

"I urge you, Honorable Members to mainstream Diaspora Affairs throughout all parliamentary business as you execute your roles of oversight, representation and legislation," PS Sing'Oei said

Additionally, he appealed with the Members to work with the National Treasury to scale up enough funding for the missions abroad.

"We beseech you to continually serve as our Ambassadors in the House in guidance of our National Interest through the Ministry as Kenya's first line of defense," Dr. Sing'Oei stated.

The Principal Secretary closed by saying, "We should all work toward the ultimate goal of safeguarding and promoting the interests of this great Republic in all our dealings because collectively, we are the face of Kenya abroad."



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua briefs the Diplomatic Corps on the recent public demonstrations in the country on July 20, 2023

CS Mutua urges envoys to remain truthful

By Sophia Wamuti

On July 20, 2023, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua briefed the diplomatic Corps on the recent public demonstrations in the country.

Addressing the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, and Heads of Mission, CS Mutua expressed his appreciation for Kenya's steadfast relations with the representatives of friendly countries.

He underscored that Kenya was a lucrative holiday destination for a large number of tourists and noted that many Kenyans travel abroad to visit, study or live while the majority of Kenyans regard themselves as global citizens fully aware that we live in an interconnected world.

“We all cherish peace that we see as the cornerstone of economic and social development. We salute members of the international community who have supported Kenya’s quest to promote peace and security in our region,” CS Mutua said, adding that, “as a country we are proud of the role we have played in planting and watering the seed of peace and democracy in several countries.”

The Cabinet Secretary highlighted that, public demonstrations, so-called 'maandamano' began in March 2023 spearheaded by the opposition. The Government made efforts to stem the violent protests such as opening the window of discussions to address the challenges faced by our nation. Regrettably, these public demonstrations have seen a number of Kenyans lose their lives.

Kenya agreed to hold bipartisan talks with the opposition, joined by various stakeholders including religious leaders and business communities. In May, the talks failed and maandamano continued in July to protest against the passage of the Finance Bill 2023 and high cost of living.

CS Mutua remained cognizant of the high cost of living emphasizing that it was, indeed, a global challenge, not unique to Kenya, and was a result of a myriad of factors including COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, rising prices of oil and the negative effects of climate change.

The Cabinet Secretary stated that Kenyans are global citizens who live in a global village and peace was of utmost importance in that it was the cornerstone of socio-economic development. He appealed to the envoys to remain truthful and adhere to international set precedent when commenting on the status of the country.

“Kenya has always upheld the rule of law, protected human rights, and maintained peace and security,” Dr. Mutua assured the envoys.





PS Sing'Oei graces Bastille Day Celebrations

By *Fartun Dahir*

Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on July 15, 2023 graced the Bastille Day celebrations at the French Embassy in Nairobi, following an invitation by the French Ambassador, H.E. Arnaud Suquet.

Bastille Day commemorates the 1790 "Fête de la Fédération" This celebration occurred on the first anniversary of dismantling the Bastille fortress on 14 July 1789. The Storming of the Bastille was an essential symbol of a new era in the country. It preceded the First Republic.

The PS gave a toast statement during the celebrations, a statement that reiterated the warm and cordial relations between Kenya and the French Republic and highlighted the significance of this day to the People of France.

In his toast, the PS conveyed on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya and on behalf of H.E the President, Dr. William Ruto, warmest wishes to the brave people of the French Republic, and its progressive leader, H.E. President Emmanuel Macron.



Sports CS Hon. Ababu Namwamba and PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei during the 2023 Bastille Day Celebrations at the French Embassy Nairobi on July 15, 2023

He noted that Bastille Day marked the unity and resilience of ordinary French citizens that rose up against the forces of feudalism and triumphed 234 years ago. Out of this brave accomplishment, emerged a new order founded on the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens which entrenched a new French Republic based on equality, solidarity, liberty. This foundational charter would go on to influence constitutions in many jurisdictions.

The PS informed that Kenya has also had its own struggle for a more united, democratic and equitable society, which led to the birth of the 2010 Constitution and a supreme law that strives for the embodiment of a free and open society.

The PS appreciated the Ambassador and his team on their commitment towards fostering bilateral relations between France and Kenya. He further reiterated the immense growth of this relationship across various sectors ranging from Energy, Water and Sanitation, Roads and Transport, Environment, Education, Agriculture and Private Sector Development.

France is the 5th largest investor in Kenya representing around 10% of direct and indirect commercial interests and Kenya is France's leading trading partner in the entire Eastern Africa Region, which echoes the depth of Kenya-France relations.

Kenya and France have also worked closely in multilateral fora's, including at the UN Security Council and climate adaptation summits. The recent New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by President Macron in Paris which sought to reconfigure the global financial architecture to make it responsive to the challenges of our time typifies the leadership of France in a rapidly changing global order.

Dr. Sing'Oei informed that Kenya is confident that the two countries will continue to work together in the search for global solutions at the forthcoming Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi and subsequently at COP 28 in Dubai and in regional and global peace and security.

In conclusion, the PS thanked the Ambassador for inviting him to share in this significant Day for the People of the Republic of France and wished good health and long life for H.E. President Emmanuel Macron, and the prosperity of the people of the French Republic.



In the company of Sports CS Hon. Ababu Namwamba, PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei joined France Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Arnaud Suquet in marking the 2023 Bastille Day at the French Embassy in Nairobi on July 15, 2023



Kenya, Congo hold inaugural JCC



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and his counterpart Hon. Denis Christel Sassou Nguesso during the 1st Session of the Kenya-Congo Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) in Brazzaville on July 6, 2023

By Irene Kimeu

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua together with his Congo counterpart Hon. Mr. Denis Christel Sassou Nguesso, held a ministerial segment of the Inaugural Session of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) on July 5 to 8, 2023, in Congo Brazzaville ahead of the State Visit by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto scheduled for 8th -9th July 2023.

14 MOUs were signed during the JCC's Ministerial Segment, spanning a wide range of topics of shared interest, including trade, investments, political and diplomatic cooperation.

The Cabinet Secretary praised the deep and long-standing historical ties of friendship between the two nations, praising Congo as a significant strategic partner of Kenya with similar goals and values.

He emphasized how closely the two nations continue to work together in a number of areas, including political, diplomatic, socioeconomic, and cultural ties. Dr. Mutua reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to enhancing the mutually beneficial relations with Congo, highlighting the fact that only through cooperation and relationship-strengthening can the two nations ensure their socioeconomic and cultural development.

"Africa's prosperity is hinged on the individual efforts of our countries. Kenya and Congo through this JCC, have taken bold steps to cooperate and prosper together. We must endeavor to continue working closely to accelerate our efforts to better the lives of our peoples," said Dr. Mutua.

The Cabinet Secretary urged each Ministry to cooperate with one another and put more effort into advancing the action and implementation of the agreed-upon areas of cooperation by putting strong follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms in place to assess the progress on the agreed-upon deliverables, noting that doing so would speed up growth and achieve win-win cooperation.

"I am optimistic that both countries can leverage existing platforms to share the dividends that will accrue from this bilateral cooperation in the various agreed areas," said CS Mutua.

The CS reaffirmed Kenya's commitment in enhancing bilateral relations with Congo in order to accelerate intra -Africa trade and connectivity.





PCS H.E. Musalia Mudavadi officially opened the African Edition of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) in Nairobi on July 6, 2023

By David Gatobu

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the German Federal Foreign Office, and Adelphi collaborated to host the first-ever African edition of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC), which took place in Nairobi on July 6, 2023.

The annual conference, which had its first iteration in 2019, has grown into the largest gathering place for governments, international organizations, specialists, and practitioners who are working to better address the effects of climate change on global peace and security through diplomacy, development, and defense approaches.

The conference concentrated on exchanging best practice examples from Africa, progress in multilateral engagement on climate security, and strengthening synergies between multilateral initiatives like Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) and Climate for Peace (C4P) to ensure climate, peace, and security risks. This was done in the run-up to the Africa Climate Summit in September and to continue the momentum of Africa's common position and integration into international fora like COP28.

The conference brought together specialists to better understand these difficulties and aimed to promote agreements and outcomes that better climate financing that is conflict-sensitive, informed by climate risk, easier to access to reach those most affected, find better linkages across sectors and regions, and scale up intra-regional learning.



PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei gives remarks during the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in Nairobi on July 6, 2023

The conference was officially opened by the Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi accompanied by Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Sing'Oei as well as the German Secretary of State and Special Envoy for International Climate Action H.E. Jennifer Morgan.

In his opening remarks, the Prime CS mentioned that although Africa emits the fewest greenhouse emissions, it is the region most affected by their effects.

He pointed out that the continent's abundant untapped natural resources, especially its potential for renewable energy, along with its young and rapidly expanding labor population, make it a very cost-competitive site for setting up green manufacturing and industrial capacity as well as for mass carbon removal.

PS Sing'Oei, in his remarks, stated that "Climate change is a threat multiplier and has become a major threat to peaceful co-existence among communities, within and across borders."



Kenya Chairs the IGAD Quartet Ministerial Meeting

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, presided over the first Ministerial Meeting of the Quartet States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on the Situation in Sudan on June 19, 2023.

The IGAD Quartet Ministerial Meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government's 14th Ordinary Session, which met in Djibouti on June 12, 2023.

The foreign ministers of Djibouti, Ethiopia, and South Sudan as well as the Executive Secretary of IGAD and the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) of the African Union took part in the Ministerial Meeting virtually.

In accordance with the recommendations of the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the meeting's goals were to address the ongoing crisis in Sudan and to develop a coordinated response.

The IGAD Quartet Foreign Ministers noted from the discussions the significance of fully implementing the decisions and instructions of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government's 14th Ordinary Session in accordance with the IGAD Roadmap for Peace in the Republic of Sudan.

The group also discussed the importance of a prospective face-to-face meeting between the two leaders to the Sudanese conflict, noting that this would be a positive step toward creating an inclusive, comprehensive political process in Sudan.

The IGAD Quartet Foreign Ministers added that holding such an in-person meeting would be crucial in resolving important issues, including the end of hostilities and the distribution of necessary humanitarian supplies to impacted citizens. This would be essential for establishing a lasting peace and moving Sudan's peaceful democratic transition forward.

In keeping with H.E. the President's desire for an open dialogue between the Sudanese parties and a peaceful resolution that benefited the peoples of Sudan and the region, the CS reiterated Kenya's commitment to collective leadership, trust, and transparency during the mediation process. as the meeting came to an end.

Growing the Bond between Kenya and Ethiopia

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary held a bilateral meeting with his Ethiopian counterpart Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia H.E Demeke Mekonnen Hassen in his office in Addis Ababa on June 13, 2023.

The two Foreign Ministers deliberated on how to take the wonderful relations between the two nations to an even higher level.

They also compared notes on regional issues and exchanged ideas on the way forward for establishment of peace and security especially in Sudan. This followed the successful IGAD Heads of State summit held in Djibouti.

They exchanged documents relating to bilateral initiatives aimed at opening up wonderful opportunities for the peoples of the two countries .

The CS was accompanied by Kenya's Ambassador to Ethiopia Jean Kamau.





Kenya and Djibouti Bolster Relations

H.E. President William Ruto and Djibouti President H.E. Ismail Ouguelleh witness the signing of bilateral agreements between Kenya and Djibouti on June 11, 2023.



By Kawira Githinji

On June 9, 2023, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua and his counterpart, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Djibouti's Minister for Foreign and International Cooperation, held a Ministerial Segment of the Second Session of the Kenya-Djibouti Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) on issues relating to politics, security, trade, economic, youth, social and cultural affairs.

Prior to that, the technical teams from the respective delegations met jointly for three days. During this time, the two countries had the chance to review the progress of the bilateral instruments' implementation, suggest new areas of cooperation, and finalize the bilateral instruments that would be signed by the two nations.

The Cabinet Secretary urged individual Ministries to cooperate and work harder to hasten the action and execution of the agreed-upon areas of cooperation by putting in place effective follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation systems to assess the progress on the agreed-upon deliverables.

In order to strategically reduce airtime costs and increase connectivity in the region, the two foreign ministers also held a ministerial bilateral meeting where they discussed topics like visa waivers, trade connections, the restart of direct flights, an energy program, as well as fiber connectivity between the cities of Djibouti City and Mombasa.

The CS, who was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Singoei, had earlier arrived in Djibouti in preparation of H.E. President Ruto's official visit to Djibouti and participation in the 14th Ordinary Assembly of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State and Government.

During the Official visit, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of bilateral agreements between Kenya and Djibouti. The signed memoranda of understanding included: – Cooperation in the field of energy development; Technical Cooperation in the Development of Youth Affairs and the Arts; Cooperation in the Foreign Service Academy; and Collaborate in the field of tourism.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and his Djibouti counterpart, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf display signed minutes following the 2nd Session of the Kenya-Djibouti JCC held in Djibouti on June 9, 2023.



CS Mutua attends ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting in Luanda



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua attended and participated at the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee in Angola on June 2, 2023

By Kawira Githinji

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua made a one-day official visit to Luanda, Angola to attend the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) meeting of the International Great Lakes Regional Conference (ICGLR) on June 2, 2023.

The RIMC meeting was held ahead of the 10th ICGLR Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of States held on June 3, 2023. H.E. President William Ruto was represented by Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Dr. Mutua held extensive bilateral talks with his Angolan counterpart H.E. Tete Antonio. Discussions focused on the launch of the inaugural Kenya-Angola JCC and on ways of actualizing pending instruments of operation to pave way for more structural engagements.

The CS recognized the strong relations that exist between Kenya and Angola and reiterated his commitment to deepening bilateral ties in areas of trade, investments, agriculture, tourism, ICT, Manufacturing, construction, health, education, mining, oil and the gas sector. They also discussed regional trade initiatives and the resumption of flights between the two countries.

The CS welcomed Angola's leadership in the region and on the continent on matters of peace and security. He further emphasized that Kenya and Angola would continue to consult on issues of bilateral, continental, and global relevance and pledged Kenya's support for efforts to maintain regional peace and security.

Dr. Mutua also attended the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting, which was presided over by H.E. Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations of Angola. Discussions centered on issues of regional peace

and security, including the deployment of military in the DRC, their effects, as well as the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

The two Foreign Ministers discussed and agreed on the agenda for the Heads of Government Summit and deliberated the various issues that needed to be addressed under the philosophy of African Solutions to African Problems and the Silencing of Guns in Africa.

The CS applauded the Angolan government for sustaining the Luanda-led peace process and the Burundian government for leading the mediation, which is essential for the maintenance of security and peace and stability of the eastern DRC.

Mr. Andrew Mujivane, Charge d' Affaires at the Kenya Embassy in Luanda and Amb. Catherine Mogaka, Director EAC and Kenya National Coordinator, ICGLR accompanied the Cabinet Secretary.



World Scout Parliamentary Union Africa Assembly 2023



By David Gatobu

From June 21 to 24, 2023, Nyeri County hosted the 2023 World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) Africa Assembly, which was attended by a team from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Delegates from South Korea, Burundi, South Sudan, government representatives, and NGOs attended the gathering.

The Assembly's main goals were to encourage dialogue and cooperation among African youth and parliamentarians in addressing climate change mitigation, empower them to take action and encourage sustainable development.

To inspire attendees to become active agents of change in tackling the climate issue in Kenya, the Assembly was divided into various plenary and breakout sessions that allowed for one-on-one encounters. Throughout the assembly, participants interacted with scout exhibits.

The Chief Guest, the Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, Speaker of the Senate, thanked the partners for their support and promised the attendees that lawmakers would continue to support the WSPU movement. Teresia Malokwe, the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Devolution, also confirmed her support for the movement.

Speaking at the event, the President of World Scout Parliamentary Union Assembly in Kenya, Hon. John Kiarie, M.P., stated that the Conference's theme on Climate Change is aligned with the upcoming COP 28 scheduled to be held in Dubai.

Other topics covered during the Assembly included; elimination of visa barriers to facilitate global movement of Scouts, alignment of the World Scout Parliamentary Union's theme with H.E President William Ruto's initiatives on climate change and tree planting exercises, enactment of supportive Legislation by African parliamentarians for the growth and development of scouting and the need for funds to be allocated in the national budget.

The delegates were urged to continue serving as outstanding ambassadors for climate action and to improve their communities and beyond. The closing ceremony for the WSPU Africa Assembly 2023 served as a representation of the power that results from collaboration, solidarity, and intercultural communication. It exemplified the Pan-Africanist ethos and underlined the importance of promoting youth development, environmental care, and cross-border cooperation.

Kenya Malaysia deepen bilateral cooperation

By Sophia Wamuti

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Hon. Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, paid an Official Visit to Kenya from July 4 to 6, 2023. The Deputy PM was the Guest Speaker at the launch of the Malaysian Palm Oil Forum (MPOF) East Africa 2023 which was held in Nairobi on July 4 under the theme: *Malaysia Palm Oil: Pioneering Sustainable Solutions for a Better Tomorrow*.

MPOF East Africa presented an opportunity for exploring the potential for boosting the trade of sustainable palm oil products with Kenya, a major economic gateway and hub for trade and investment in East Africa, and other East African governments.

Hon. Fadilla Yusof met with Hon. Mithika Linturi, the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, where they held discussions on Kenya-Malaysia relations to deepen bilateral collaboration between both governments, particularly the sharing of knowledge, skills, and experience in promoting sustainable agriculture practices and food safety. Subsequently, the Deputy Prime Minister encouraged Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil products to be expanded throughout the African continent.

Hon. Fadillah Yusof later made a courtesy call on Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, the Prime Cabinet Secretary. The discussions centered on measures to further deepen bilateral ties and explore new prospects between the two countries.

Kenya is Malaysia's fourth-largest commercial partner in Sub-Saharan Africa, with bilateral trade reaching USD 1.19 billion in 2022. As stated by Mr. Vimal Shah, Chairperson of BIDCO Group East Africa, Kenya has emerged as the fifth largest destination for Malaysian palm oil exports, with a volume of over 870,000 tons in 2022.

Palm oil products are used in various applications, including food and nutrition, health and hygiene, and cattle growth. So far this year, palm oil commerce has indirectly employed one million Kenyans and generated an estimated revenue of KES1.6 billion an indication that this sector is critical to Kenya's economy.



PS Njogu Explores Economic Opportunities in Hong Kong



PS Roseline Njogu was received by Amb. Edwin Afande, Charge d'affaires of the Kenyan Embassy in Beijing and Dr. Tam Wing Kun, Honorary Consul of Kenya in Hong Kong & Macau on June 26, 2023

By Phillip Opwora

The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Roseline Njogu, successfully completed her five-day official visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on July 1, 2023. During this time, she had fruitful conversations with numerous stakeholders from various disciplines.

The visit, aimed at strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties, and exploring opportunities for economic growth, saw PS Njogu meet with representatives from employment agencies, transport sector players, and correctional facilities agency.

The PS was accompanied by Ambassador Edwin Afande, the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Kenya in Beijing, Dr. Tam Wing Kun, Honorary Consul of Kenya in Hong Kong and Macau, and a delegation from Kenya, comprising officials from various government agencies.

During her visit, PS Njogu held strategic meetings guided by the mandates of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which focuses on economic turnaround and inclusive growth, including the welfare of Kenyans living in the diaspora.

In separate discussions, PS Njogu explored employment opportunities, meeting some of the key stakeholders such as the Hong Kong Union of Employment Agencies, led by Chairman Thomas Chan, and the Hong Kong Airport Authority, represented by Assistant Manager Hub Development, Raymond Wong. Kenya's labor market has garnered international attention in recent years, attracting countries worldwide for unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled labor due to their unmatched work ethics.

According to data released by Bloomberg in 2018, Kenyan immigrants working in the US ranked third among the most industrious foreigners. Given the relations between Kenya and Hong Kong, the Special Administrative Region could potentially become another attractive labour market destination for many Kenyans.

Highlighting Kenya's highly educated workforce, PS Njogu remarked, "We have an extremely well-educated workforce. A lot of teachers are teaching abroad, nurses are working in other countries, and one of the areas we are known for is hospitality. We have a number of Kenyans, including chefs, waitresses, and waiters, employed in the Americas, Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the rest of Africa."

Chairman Thomas Chan on the other hand expressed his acknowledgment of the idea of exploring alternative labour markets within a region predominantly controlled by the Asian labour market(?).

In June of this year, the Hong Kong government announced plans to ease immigration rules in order to recruit 27,000 foreign workers. This came following the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local job market.

"Currently, the Hong Kong government wants to try to import some kind of workforce, for example, waitresses in restaurants, helpers in nursing homes, and construction workers, and these are the things that we are also interested in," added Chairman Chan.

The delegation also visited the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) preparatory office to understand its mandate. The intergovernmental legal organization is likely to be of benefit to Kenyan businesses involved in cross-border trade disputes.

During her visit, the Principal Secretary also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Kenya and Hong Kong for the transfer of Persons in Custody (PIC). This agreement will provide Kenyans serving sentences in Hong Kong with an opportunity to be repatriated to Kenya to complete the remainder of their sentencing.

PS Njogu had an opportunity of meeting with Kenyan female PICs at the Lo Wu Correctional Institute, which currently houses 14 Kenyan inmates serving time for various offenses.

The delegation also met the Kenyan Diaspora residing in Hong Kong, including students, athletes, business owners, and individuals engaged in unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled labor. PS Njogu reassured them of the Government of Kenya's commitment to promoting the interests of Kenyans abroad.

The PS also reiterated the State Department's ongoing consular outreach program, the Mobile Consular Services, where she said that it will continue to be rolled out to the benefit of the Kenyans wherever they are.

She urged them to consider investing in opportunities back home, such as Treasury Bonds and Bills, as well as Affordable Housing (Boma Yangu).



MFDA adheres to Environmental Management directive



MFDA Environment Committee led by Amb. Josphat Maikara, Secretary, Foreign Service Administration.

By Rachel Mugane and Evance Oguta

The Environmental Management and Coordination (Amendment) Act, 2015 stipulates that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) should establish an Environment Management Unit.

In this regard, the State Department for Foreign Affairs Environment Committee was constituted on December 22, 2022 and mandated to coordinate the implementation of Environment Target in the Ministry's Performance Contract. The target for FY 2022/2023 contained three issues: the establishment of a committee, training of committee members as well as tree planting activity in line with Presidential Directives.

The Government led by H.E President Ruto initiated planting of 15 billion trees by 2032, a move aimed at taking Kenya's total national tree cover to 30%. As a result, he rallied the entire government, communities, the private sector, NGOs, and educational institutions to mobilize the people of Kenya to participate in this endeavour. Consequently, environmental management became a key part of how the Government needs to operate.

It was against this background that the Committee stepped up efforts to partner with like-minded organizations such as Green Africa Foundation, learning institutions, communities and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry to assist in achieving this target. So far, the Committee has secured tree nursery farm in Ngong' and also spearheaded the planting of over 3000 trees in Limuru and Nakuru.



Ms. Janeffer Njiru, Ag. Director, Wellness and ACU plants a tree.

To ensure effectiveness in its mandate, Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei who has been relentlessly committed to this course, ratified a five-day training of the members to amplify their proficiency on ecological issues. The training was superintended by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and conducted from 25th to 30th June, 2023 in Nakuru.

Moreover, in order to enhance knowledge of the legal framework and policies on environmental matters, a member of the National Climate Change Council in the Office of the President, Mr. John Kioli was invited to augment understanding of the subject.

The Committee also acquired evidence-based knowledge from the Green Africa Foundation whose Chairperson, Dr. Isaack Kalua shared the organization's practical experiences on environmental activities. The programme was concluded by a field excursion to Menengai Geothermal Power Plant where the Committee learnt about renewable sources of energy and also planted trees at the site.

The Committee therefore, proposes for the formulation of Environment and Social Sustainable Policy to streamline environmental sustainability issues in the Ministry. In addition, the Ministry is urged to integrate the action plans of Climate Change Act (2016) into its Strategic Plans and other policies as clearly directed to all MDAs.





Eliud Kipchoge obtains Sports Award

By Sophia Wamuti

The 2023 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports has been given to world-record-breaking marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge.

The Princess of Asturias Awards honor contributions made by people or organizations on a global scale in the fields of science, technology, culture, society, and humanitarianism.

The Princess of Asturias Award for Sports is given to professionals that advance sports, in keeping with tradition. It serves as an example of the advantages that athletics can have on a community.

"It is an absolute honor to receive the Princess of Asturias Award. To be amongst a list of extraordinary laureates, all people in different walks of life," Eliud Kipchoge said in a statement following his conferral. "It motivates me in my goal to leave a legacy in this world through running."

Kipchoge, nicknamed The Philosopher for his strategic prowess, is the current Olympic marathon champion. His career began 20 years ago when he won the 5,000 meters and a bronze medal the following year.

The Kenyan athlete has continued to dominate the running track. In marathons, he commands the events and is considered the greatest marathon runner of all time. He has won more than 15 out of 18 marathon races globally, including Tokyo (2022), Berlin (2022, 2018, 2017, and 2015), London (2019, 2018, 2016, and 2015), and Chicago (2014).



As is custom, the legendary Eliud Kipchoge will be conferred with the Award in October 2023 in a ceremony to be presided over by TM. The King and Queen, accompanied by TRH Leonor, Princess of Asturias, and Infanta Sofia of Spain.

Ministry honours retired officers

By Kawira Githinji

As a thank you for a long career of service, the State Department for Foreign Affairs hosted a ceremony on June 21, 2023 to formally send off two retired officials, Mr. John Gitu and Ms. Isabella Njeri.

Colleagues, friends, and family members were present for the ceremony, which was officially presided over by Amb. Josphat Maikara, Secretary, Foreign Service Administration.

During the ceremony, Amb. Maikara thanked the two officers for their outstanding contributions to the Ministry and the Public Service and expressed his gratitude, respect, reverence, and honor to them.

"It is truly remarkable that you endured and diligently served our country to attain this significant milestone in your life with great integrity," Amb. Maikara Said.

He urged those who were still in the service to follow in the footsteps of the retired officers who had served with honor and dignity and had put up with years of demanding responsibilities.

Amb. Maikara implored on them to remain honest, sincere, humble and affectionate to their families and the community as they had conducted themselves over the years of service.

He called on their family members to continue rendering them the necessary support as they adapt to the new life and extended great appreciation to their spouses and other family members that have been at their side through thick and thin.

"As retired officers, you have left the State Department 'retiring' but not 'tired' of doing public good." Amb. Maikara stated, adding that, "I, therefore, call upon you to always see yourselves as good emissaries and never allow any selfish interest to blemish the integrity and wisdom you have nurtured over the years in this great disciplinary institution.

He expressed his gratitude to each of them for their important contributions to the public service and his best wishes for their next endeavors.

**"As retired officers, you have left the State Department 'retiring' but not 'tired' of doing public good."
Amb. Josphat Maikara**



Operationalization of Kenya's Foreign Service Academy

By *Wambui Muchiri*

Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, officiated at the opening session of a workshop on Operationalization of the Foreign Service Academy from June 14 – 16, 2023 at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi.

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) was established through a Cabinet Memorandum 1/2006 as a State Corporation under Cap 446 Laws of Kenya with the objective of strengthening the Ministry's human and institutional capacities in policy research, analysis and monitoring the efficacy of Kenya's Foreign Policy.

The Academy has realized significant milestones, which include collaboration in documentation of Kenya's diplomatic history; facilitated the training of Ministry's cohort of Foreign Service Cadets since 2007/8; inducted newly appointed Ambassadors since 2006; conducted training for South Sudanese and Somalia Ambassadors.

The meeting brought together top government leadership to map out the operationalization process including the National Security Council Secretary and Advisor to the President, Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline Njogu, former FSA Director, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, and the Director-General Kenya School of Government, Prof. Ludweki Chweya,

Speaking at the workshop, Amb. Dr. Monica Juma stated that Kenya has a huge demand for leadership globally in emerging global issues such as Governance, Climate Change, Peace keeping and Mediation.

She urged the Academy to have a strengthened curriculum to develop competent Foreign Service officers to ascertain Kenya's dominant position in a dynamic multicultural world.

PS Roseline Njogu, explored the invaluable role of the diaspora in the execution of Kenya's Foreign Policy. She highlighted the recent achievements of the Department and outlined strategies to maximize the potential of the diaspora in advancing Kenya's national interests.

Significance of diaspora remittances, strengthened consular work, and the successful evacuation of Kenyans during the Sudan crisis were highlighted including the State Department's approach to achieving its mandate and recognizing the diaspora as a critical component of foreign engagement.

PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei officially closed the three-day workshop and re-launched the Academy. He underscored key diplomatic issues that focused on Kenya's increasing presence as a mediator in the region as well as the Government's respect for democracy and upholding the freedoms that come with our constitution.

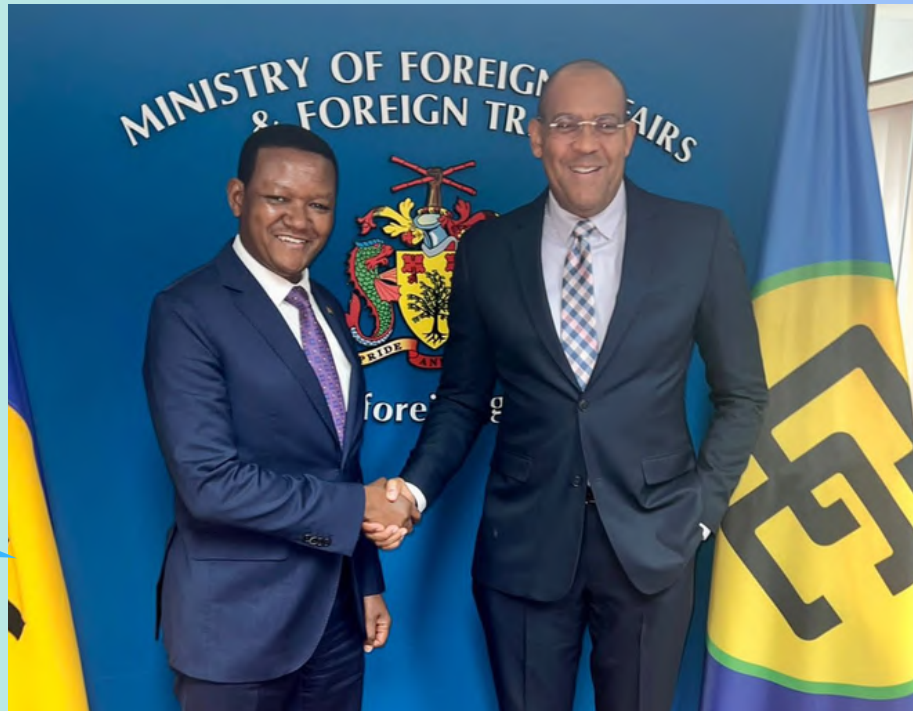
The Academy's Director-General, Amb. Kirimi Kaberia reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the institution and announced that the appointment of various members to the Council had officially commenced.

The Ministry's senior officials present included, Amb. George Orina, the Director-General, Bilateral and Political Affairs, Amb. Margaret Gichuru, Director – Global Assets and Management, amongst other heads of department.



CS Mutua's official visit to the Caribbean

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua visit Bridgetown, Barbados where he held negotiations with his counterpart Hon. Kerrie D. Symmonds, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in his office on June 18, 2023



By Evance Oguta

From June 16 to 19, 2023 Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua made an official visit to Barbados and Jamaica with the goal of reviving Kenya's relations with the two nations and unlocking opportunities for Kenyans to engage in trade, investment, tourism, culture exchange and the employment of Kenyan nurses and seafarers.

The CS held bilateral discussions with his counterpart, Hon. Kerrie D. Symmonds, in Barbados, leading to fruitful outcomes regarding trade and investment. Dr. Mutua noted that despite Kenya having significant potential, notably in the tea, coffee, horticulture, and everyday goods sectors, the volume of commerce between the two nations has remained low.

To ensure that Kenyan products gain access to Barbados, he recommended that the Joint Committee on Trade and Investment between the two countries that was established on October 6, 2021 be operationalized.

On the other hand, Barbados expressed interest in cooperating with Kenya in the FINTECH sector. As a result, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Equity Bank were identified to invest in and provide resident banking services in Barbados.

During the visit to Jamaica, the Cabinet Secretary held fruitful bilateral meetings with his counterpart, Hon. Senator Kamina Johnson Smith and Mr. Michael McMorris, President of Jamaica Chamber of Commerce on June 19, 2023.

The meeting explored ways to exploit and maximize opportunities that exist between Kenya and Jamaica with a view to expanding partnerships at bilateral and multilateral levels.

The Cabinet Secretary implored upon the President of the Jamaican Chamber of Commerce and Industry to initiate an instrument of cooperation on trade and investment between the two countries' chambers of commerce and industry with a view to upscale trade and investment between the two countries.

The two countries agreed to collaborate on exchange programmes that included scholarships, student and faculty exchanges, joint development of curricula, internships, and trainings.

Further, to reinvigorate bilateral relations with Kenya and Jamaica, the two sides affirmed the need to jumpstart the Joint Commission for Cooperation. In this regard, Kenya offered to host the inaugural session of the Kenya-Jamaica Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) in October, 2023.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with his Jamaican counterpart Hon. Senator Kamina Johnson Smith



Let's Talk About Mental Health: Navigating Worsening Mental Health Issues at the Workplace

By *Fartun Dahir*

In today's fast-paced and demanding work environment, it is not uncommon for individuals to experience challenges with their mental health.

While many organizations are taking steps to prioritize employee well-being, there may still be instances where mental health issues worsen within the workplace. It is crucial to address these concerns promptly and effectively to ensure the overall well-being of all staff and maintain a positive work environment.

In this article, we will explore actionable strategies for individuals to navigate and address worsening mental health issues at the workplace.

1. Identify the signs: It is essential for individuals to recognize the signs of worsening mental health issues in themselves and others. These signs may include increased anxiety, persistent sadness, irritability, changes in sleep patterns, decreased productivity, and social withdrawal. Awareness of these signs can help initiate timely interventions and support.

2. Seek professional help: When mental health issues worsen, seeking professional help is vital. There are several mental health institutions in Nairobi where civil servants can consult a mental health professional for expert guidance and support tailored to their specific needs using their National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). Some of these include; Chiromo Hospital Group, the Nairobi West Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital, among others.

3. Communicate openly: Establishing a culture of open communication at the workplace is crucial for addressing worsening mental health issues. Encourage colleagues to share their concerns with their supervisors, human resources, or trusted colleagues. Likewise, employers should foster an environment that promotes honest conversations about mental health and offer confidential channels for employees to express their challenges.

4. Promote work-life balance: It is vital to maintain a healthy work-life balance, as it significantly contributes to mental well-being. Setting boundaries between work and personal life, taking regular breaks, engaging in physical activity, and pursuing hobbies or activities that we enjoy outside of work are some of the ways we can achieve work-life balance. We should all promote these practices by fostering a culture that values work-life balance and discourages overworking.

5. Education and training: Both employers and employees can benefit from mental health education and training. Employers should invest in mental health awareness programs and provide resources that educate employees about common mental health issues, coping mechanisms, and available support services. Employees can take advantage of such resources to gain a better understanding of their own mental health and learn how to support their colleagues.

6. Foster a supportive environment: Creating a supportive workplace environment is essential when mental health issues worsen. Employers can foster this environment by reducing stigma around mental health, implementing anti-discrimination policies, and promoting empathy and understanding among team members. Encourage colleagues to offer support and check in on one another regularly.

In conclusion, addressing worsening mental health issues at the workplace requires a collective effort. By recognizing the signs, seeking professional help, communicating openly, promoting work-life balance, and fostering a supportive environment, workplaces can become spaces where individuals feel safe and supported in managing their mental health challenges.

Prioritizing mental well-being not only improves individual outcomes but also enhances overall productivity and organizational success. Remember, together we can create workplaces that prioritize mental health and well-being for everyone involved.





IN BRIEF



On June 11, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua received H.E. President William Ruto on arrival in Djibouti to participate in the 14th Ordinary Assembly of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State and Government.

On June 25, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, hosted staff of the Kenya Mission in Paris, France to a social engagement and also to celebrate and remember the departed colleague Ms. Marina Museo Mututho.

Marina was an Administrative Attache in Paris who sadly passed away after a brave battle with cancer.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.



On June 30, 2023 CS Dr. Alfred Mutua joined H.E. President William Ruto during the unveiling of Digital Government Services at KICC.

Dubbed #GavaMkononi, this game changing move will enable millions of Kenyans access over 5,000 government services on this platform ensuring Kenyans conveniently access critical government services at the comfort of their homes anywhere in the world.





IN BRIEF

On June 9, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei engaged with staff at the Kenya Mission in Djibouti on the state preparedness of the Official Visit by H.E. President William Ruto.



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
МИНИСТАРСТВО
СРБИЈА
СРБИЈА



On June 25, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Sing'Oei arrived in Belgrade, Serbia, the city of President Josip Tito, the Father of the Non-Aligned Movement, and held consultations on a wide range of issues with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and 1st Deputy PM, H.E. Ivica Dacic.

On June 25, 2023 PS Dr. Korir Singoei, met Kenyan students in Serbian Universities under the World in Serbia Program enrolled in graduate studies in medicine, ICT, engineering.

The PS requested the Serbian govt to double beneficiaries to the program from current 10 to 20.





IN BRIEF

Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu called on Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy the Under-Secretary, Diplomatic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman on June 6, 2023.

Discussions focused on improving relations on labour, trade and investment. She thanked the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for their support in serving the Kenyan Diaspora.



On July 27, 2023, Amb. Jackline Yonga hosted PS Roseline Njogu, the team from State Department of Diaspora Affairs and Embassy staff for dinner, where discussions centered on addressing challenges and enhancing services to Kenyans living in Italy.

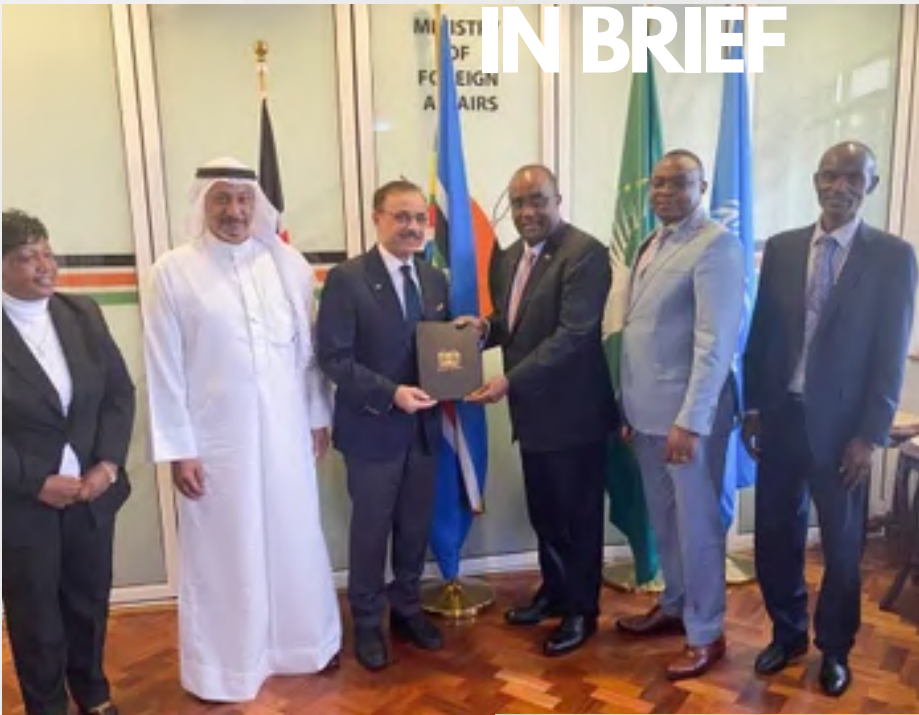
On July 12, 2023. Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu attended the Maputo at 20 Awards Gala and Dinner. The event served as a platform to acknowledge and honor the significant progress that has been made in advancing the human rights of women and promoting gender equality across Africa.



Julai 7, 2023 Siku ya Kiswahili Duniani, Katibu Mkuu wa Idara ya Serikali ya kushughulikia maswala ya ughaibuni Bi. Roseline Njogu aliungana na Wakenya wengine jijini Nairobi kuadhimisha siku hii akiwahimiiza wauungane kuendeleza Kiswahili na kukifanya kuwa lugha maarufu.



IN BRIEF



On June 22, 2023 Director General Amb. George Orina and Amb. Isaiya Kabira met with Kuwait Special Envoy Amb. Bader S. Al Tunaib and Amb Quasai R. Al-Farhan to seek avenues of closer cooperation between Kenya and Kuwait.

Kenya celebrated 50 years of its membership to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on July 20, 2023 at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. It was an opportunity to also launch its candidature for re-election to IMO Council category "C" for the biennium 2024-2025 to be held during the 33rd Session of the IMO Assembly in December 2023.



On June 1, 2023, Kenyans in France celebrated Madaraka Day at the Kenya Embassy in Paris. Amb. Hellen Gichuhi lauded their contribution to Kenya's economy and reiterated policies to serve Diaspora including mental health and encouraged them to register for mobile consular services.



IN BRIEF

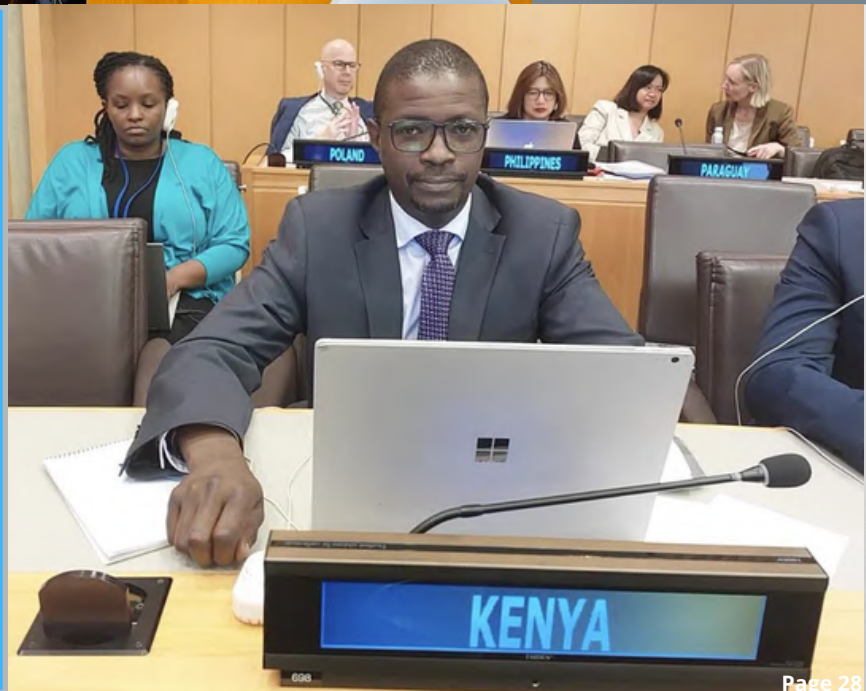
On June 3, 2023, Kenya's High Commissioner to Canada Amb. Immaculate Wambua received Ambassador of the Year 2023 Award on behalf of the Mission for exemplary performance in Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Engagement



On June 8, 2023, Kenya was elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and will begin its three year term in January 2024.

Amb. James Waweru, Registrar of Treaties, was elected Vice President of the Thirty Third Session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.

June 13, 2023



HOW TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON ECITIZEN

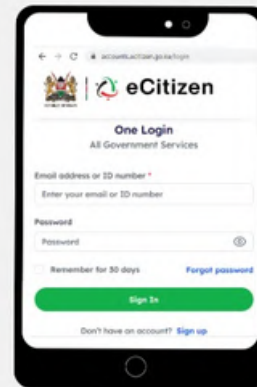
1 Go to the eCitizen website
www.ecitizen.go.ke



2 Click on register and select citizen, foreigner or resident accordingly.



3 Sign in and access the government service you desire



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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.

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
Twitter: @ForeignOfficeKE
Facebook: ForeignOfficeKE
YouTube: Foreign Office KE