



## KENYA HIGH COMMISSION OTTAWA NEWSLETTER

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A Newsletter of the High Commission  
of the Republic of Kenya, Ottawa,  
Canada

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The Kenya High Commission in Ottawa was established in 1978 with a Mandate to promote, project and protect the image and interests of Kenya and the Kenyan Community in Canada and Cuba

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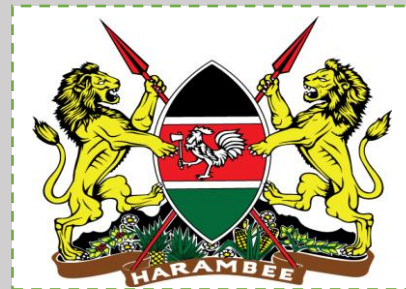
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### DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

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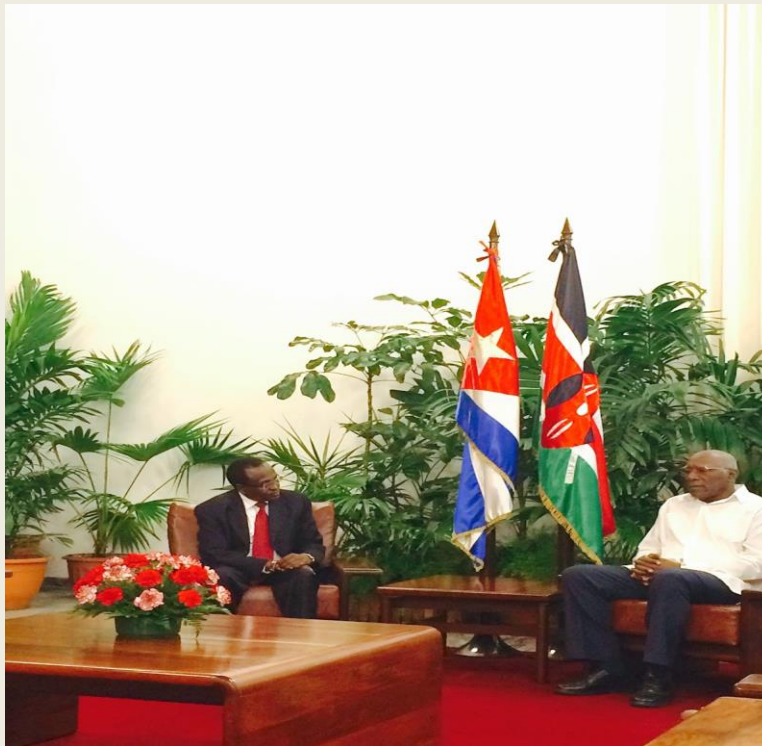
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# DIPLOMATIC SCENE

## H. E. JOHN LANYASUNYA PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

The High Commissioner, H.E. John Lanyasunya presented his credentials to His Excellency Valdes Mesa, the Vice President of the Councils of the State of Cuba in an elaborate ceremony held at Palacio De La Revolucion, Havana, Cuba on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

After receiving his credentials, the Vice President congratulated Ambassador Lanyasunya on his appointment as Kenya's Ambassador to Cuba. He also expressed appreciation for the visit by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amb. (Dr). Amina Mohamed noting that the visit strengthened the good relations the two countries enjoy.



*Amb. Lanyasunya with the Vice President of Cuba after presenting his credentials*

H.E. John Lanyasunya thanked the Vice President for receiving his credentials and conveyed a message of goodwill from H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, and the people of the Republic of Kenya to the Government and the people of the State of Cuba. He thanked them for warmly receiving his delegation. He also observed that Cuba has historical connection with Africa dating to the struggle for independence and beyond and that in his new role as the Ambassador of Kenya to Cuba, he looks forward to strengthening cooperation in the areas of trade, health, science and research and education.

# MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

## AMB. AMINA MOHAMED NOMINATED FOR AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON.

H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya nominated Amb. (Dr) Amina Mohamed, EGH, CAV, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs as a candidate for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission at elections scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa.



Amb. Mohamed has extensive experience in Foreign Service having risen through the ranks and served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva where she chaired key World Trade Organization [WTO] meetings in support of developing countries. Amb. Mohamed has also served as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and as Assistant Secretary General at the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi.

The highly respected diplomat has consistently advocated for strengthening of Africa's global portfolio by implementing the African Union Agenda 2063 vision and action plan which call for greater unity, prosperity and integration amongst African States. Amb. Amina Mohamed has served as Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs since 2013 and was instrumental in Kenya's hosting of the WTO Council of Ministers meeting, UNCTAD 14 Conference and TICAD VI Summit. All these events were held in Africa for the first time.

## THE FIFTH REPLENISHMENT CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA

The Fifth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria took place in Montreal, Canada from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The Kenyan delegation was led by Amb. (Dr) Amina Mohamed, EGH, CAV, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs accompanied by Dr. Cleopa Mailu, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Ms. Lucy Kiruthu the Acting Head of Americas Division at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nairobi among other Ministry staff. Amb. John L. Lanyasunya led the Kenya High Commission staff and diaspora in receiving the delegation.

Key leaders who participated at the conference were Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon,

UN Secretary-General, H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, H.E. Allassane Ouattara, President of Cote d'Ivoire, H.E. Modulo Keita, Prime Minister of Mali and Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among others.



*Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed addressing the Conference*

The Cabinet Secretary presented a keynote address on behalf of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, and presented Kenya's pledge of US\$5 million. The Cabinet Secretary also reaffirmed Kenya government's commitment to promoting better health. Amb. Amina later held bilateral talks with Hon. Stéphane Dion, Foreign Minister of Canada and also with Hon. Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan at the latter's request.



*Amb. Dr. Mohamed holds bilateral talks with Hon. Stéphane Dion*

The Cabinet Secretary was also among leaders who were hosted for dinner by the Governor-General of Canada the Rt. Hon. David Johnston and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.



## CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH VISITS CUBA



The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Cleopa K. Mailu made an official visit to Cuba between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Dr. Jacinta Wasike, Director - Inspection, Surveillance and Enforcement, Pharmacy and Poisons Board and Dr. Kepha M. Ombacho, Director, Public Health, in the Ministry of Health.

The Cabinet Secretary was received at José Martí International Airport by H. E John L. Lanyasunya, MBS, High Commissioner of Kenya to Cuba and Ambassador Anthony Muchiri. Mr.

Yabesh Monari from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nairobi and Ms Sophia Amboye from the Kenya High Commission Ottawa also accompanied the delegation. From the Cuba Government, the Minister was received by Dr. Nestor Marimon Torres, Director of International Relations and Dr. Martha Vera Gutierrez, an officer from the Directorate of International Relations in the Ministry of Health.



During bilateral meetings, a number of areas of cooperation were discussed including capacity building in areas such as: training of clinicians with specializations in cardiovascular systems, kidney transplant, and oncology, exchange programs for students and doctors especially emergency medicine clinicians, intensive care doctors, kidney care specialists and disease surveillance systems. The Cabinet Secretary also met some two Kenyan students studying medicine at the Latin American School of Medicine.

## HON. STÉPHANE DION VISITS KENYA

Hon. Stéphane Dion, Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Kenya on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 and held bilateral talks with H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House and separately met Amb. Monica Juma and senior Ministry officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters.

During the visit, a broad range of shared interests including regional security, economic and development cooperation, youth and women empowerment, were discussed. The Minister announced \$19.1 million funding to improve technical and vocational education and \$2.38 million towards immigration management.

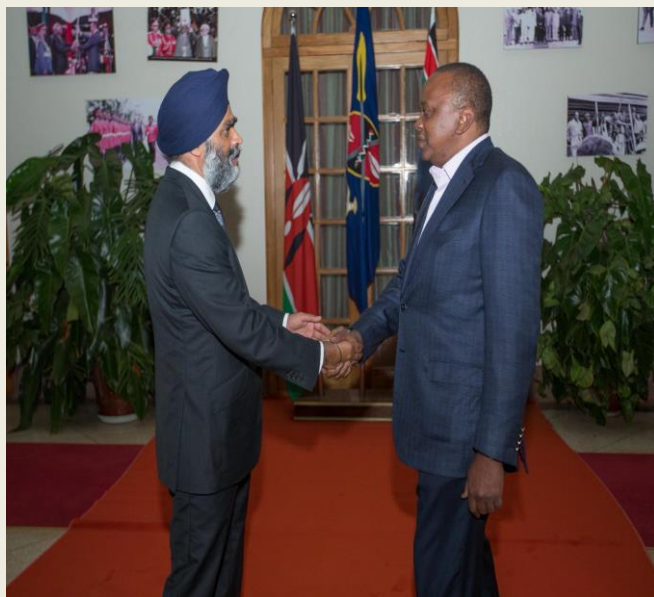


*President Uhuru Kenyatta meets Hon. Dion*

### Enhancing bilateral relations between Kenya & Canada



## HON. HARJIT SAJJAN VISITS KENYA



*Hon. Sajjan, Minister for National Defence of Canada meeting H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta.*

President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House Nairobi, held talks with Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Canada's Minister for National Defense on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The Minister was on a fact finding Mission in Africa meant to inform Canada's re-engagement in peace operations.

The Minister also discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest with Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Defence and Gen. Samson Mwathathe, the Chief of Defence Forces. The Minister also visited the International Peace Support Training Centre in Karen, Nairobi and the Heart and Cancer center at Aga Khan Hospital.

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S LIAISON COMMITTEE VISITS THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND SENATE

Some Hon. Members of Kenya's National Liaison Committee, made a benchmarking visit to Canada's House of Commons and Senate between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The members of the Committee included Hon. Sabina Wanjiru Chege, who led the delegation and Hon. Florence Kajuju.

Accompanying them were two parliamentary officers, Mr. Dennis Mogare and Ms. Linda Minagwa. Ms. Nathalie Labelle, Protocol Officer from the House of Commons and Mrs. Sophia Amboye, Second Counsellor at the High Commission were at hand to facilitate the delegation.



The objective of the visit was to study the management of parliamentary committees in particular: coordination of committees, apportionment of funds for the operations of committees, policies and mandate of the house committees, communication and engagement of committees with the public.

The Members held successful meetings with the House of Commons Procedure and House Affairs Committee, their counterpart House Liaison Committee and the Senate Committee on Internal Economy Budget and Administration. They also met members of the Canada Africa Parliamentary Association who showed great interest in learning from the Kenyan parliament too.



*Parliament Hill [Canada]*



*Parliament of Kenya*



# DIASPORA ENGAGEMENTS

## GRAND CELEBRATIONS MARK THE 53RD JAMHURI DAY EVENT IN OTTAWA

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at Fairmont Laurier Chateau Hotel in Ottawa, the High Commissioner led Kenyans, Canadian Government Officials, some Members of Parliament and Senate, the Diplomatic Community and friends of Kenya in marking Kenya's 53<sup>rd</sup> Jamhuri Day Celebration. Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was represented by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Development Ms. Karina Gould. Also in attendance were business people based in Ontario and Quebec



provinces and Kenyans and Friends of Kenya from as far as Toronto and Montreal.

The High Commissioner Amb. John L. Lanyasunya, gave background information on this historic day. After enumerating the strides Kenya has made as a country since independence, he reiterated the existence of warm relations between Kenya and Canada which have grown from strength to strength with exchange of high level visits. He

added that it was in the interest of our countries that we continue to work closely together as members of the United Nations, Commonwealth and international organizations in addressing emerging issues such as terrorism and climate change.

The Parliamentary Secretary for International Development addressed the participants, and enumerated the support Canada was providing to Kenya in her efforts to foster development in the country.



The guests were treated to Kenyan delicacies including Nyama Choma, Chapati, Mandazi and Kenyan Tusker. Tourism promotion materials and the Mission's magazine were also distributed.

Overall, the event marked a significant achievement for the Mission having lastly hosted the Jamhuri Day celebration in 2011.





*Distinguished guests keenly follow a documentary on Kenya*



*Mission's Staff during the Jamhuri day celebrations.*

## KENYAN COMMUNITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA CELEBRATE JAMHURI DAY 2016

The High Commissioner of Kenya to Canada H.E. Amb. John Lanyasunya accompanied by Mrs. Sophia Amboye, joined the Kenyan Community in British Colombia in a Jamhuri Dinner, Dance, and Celebration on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Burnaby, B.C.

The occasion brought together over 200 Kenyans and friends of Kenya. Among them were friends from Canada, Zambia, Nigeria and Guyana. Also in attendance was the P. A. Moja group which is an organization that helps to educate children in the communities

living near wildlife conservancy areas in East Laikipia region in Kenya. The organization has implemented an exchange program where Canadian and Kenyan youth get opportunities to make reciprocal visits to the two countries.

The High Commissioner reminded the gathering of the reason for the occasion which is in remembrance of independence which was hard earned through bloodshed. He also explained the meaning of the colours of the National flag. He acknowledged the presence of the friends of Kenya saying it exemplified unity. He also urged the Kenyans to be good examples wherever they lived stating that the Government of Kenya had provided for dual

citizenship to enable them make contributions to both the Host country and back home. He reiterated that the government had opened many opportunities for investment back home.

The Chair of the KenCom BC, Ms Jane Muema acknowledged the progress the community had made since its inception 8 years ago.



*The event was marked by pomp and colour, sumptuous food, lively entertainment, dancing competition, and prize raffles.*

## KENYAN COMMUNITY IN ONTARIO RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

On an invitation by the Kenyan Community in Ontario, the Deputy Head of Mission, Amb.Prof. Jane Onsongo, represented the High Commissioner at a Jamhuri Day event organized by the Community in Mississauga, Ontario on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. The occasion was graced by the Mayor of Mississauga, Ms. Bonnie Crombie who hailed the Community for the noble idea to award various groups in recognition of their leadership and contributions to community service. Prof. Onsongo encouraged the Community to enhance partnership with the Mission in enhancing diaspora diplomacy. Kenya High Commission was also awarded for its leadership in Diaspora Affairs.



*Prof. Onsongo receives an award on behalf of the Mission*



## JAMHURI CELEBRATION IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA

The High Commissioner, H.E. John Lanyasunya was the Guest of Honour for Kenya's 53<sup>rd</sup> Jamhuri Day Celebrations held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta. The President and members of the Association warmly received the High Commissioner who was accompanied by Ms. Scholastica Nasimiyu. The High Commissioner noted that Jamhuri Day provides all Kenyans the opportunity to reflect on the achievements, plan and commit to the milestones for the betterment of our nation in future. He also praised the Kenyan Diaspora living in Canada for their contribution to development in Kenya through remittances, investments, and skills transfer.



Mr. David Shepherd, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) who read a speech on behalf of Rachel Notley, the Premier of the Government of Alberta encouraged Kenyans living in Alberta to work hard, support each other in order to build their lives as a community and to remember their roots. He also assured the Kenyan community that the Government of Alberta will continue to create new jobs that will restore Alberta economy and protect their programs in Alberta.



*Officials of the Association of Kenyans in Alberta, with the High Commissioner.*



## KENYA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HOLD JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATION IN CALGARY, ALBERTA

The Kenyan community based in Calgary, Alberta held a successful Jamhuri day on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Under the presidency of Dr. Edwin Langat the Kenyans gathered at Dalhart Centre to mark the day Kenya gained independence.

The Kenya High Commission was represented by Mr. Robert Kobia and Mr. James Karani. Mr. Kobia read the High Commissioner's speech which emphasized the strides Kenya had made since attaining independence fifty-three years ago. The President of KCA, commended members for working closely together and reiterated the unity portrayed by the members over the

years. He requested the Kenyan government to consider opening an Honorary Consulate in Alberta to serve Kenyans in Alberta.



*From Left to Right: Mr. James Karani, Dr. Edwin Langat, Hon. Jamie Kleinsteuber and Mr. Robert Kobia*

## ABEINGO CANADA ASSOCIATION SUCCESSFULLY FUNDRAISES FOR HIV/AIDS ORPHANS IN WESTERN KENYA

On invitation by Abeingo Canada Association, the Mission was represented at the Annual Fundraising Dinner on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 held in Toronto. Mr. John Cheruiyot and Ms. Scholastica Nasimiya represented the High Commissioner at the function.

The Chief Guest was Hon. Ahmed Hussein, MP, York South, Weston, who is the First Somali Member of Parliament in Canada. He praised the Association for the success of their support to Orphan students with HIV/AIDs in Western Kenya and encouraged them to extend the project to other parts of the country.



Mr. Cheruiyot, who read the High Commissioner's speech, thanked the Association for the fundraising initiative to assist orphans affected with HIV/Aids. He also appreciated the assistance extended to a Kenyan Student in Cuba who was stranded after completion of her studies and urged the Association to continue in the same spirit.

# TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORTS

## KENYANS PARTICIPATE IN THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN CANADA

The 13<sup>th</sup> FINA World Swimming Championship took place at Windsor, Canada from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. The six day event attracted about 1000 top swimmers from over 170 countries who competed for a total of 46 Gold Medals. Kenya was represented by 8 swimmers who took part in various swimming disciplines.



The Kenyans performed well in their respective heats although they did not receive a medal. During the competition, a total of 5 National Swimming records in various disciplines were broken. Emily Muteti broke three national records while Maina Kimani broke two.

Mr. John Cheruiyot representing the High Commission, visited the team to provide them moral support. The Sports Kenya Chairman, Mr. Fred Muteti, was also present to witness the competition. The swimmers appreciated the presence of the High Commission and the official from Kenya noting that it made a difference as they felt supported by the government.

## INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR 2016

The Global Affairs Canada, International Food Fair 2016 took place on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at the Skelton and West Lobby areas of the Lester B. Pearson Building 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. This is an annual event usually held as a Global Affairs Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign. As has been in the previous years, Kenya was among the participating countries.



*The High Commissioner samples food during the festival*

The following Kenyan food was displayed at the stand: Nyama Choma, Mukimo, Kales, Mandazi and Chapati. Mrs Sophia Amboye and Mrs Monica Ngarachu helped in manning the stand. H.E the High Commissioner, Mr. John L. Lanyasunya graced the event among other Heads of Missions.



*Mrs. Amboye and Mrs. Ngarachu jubilantly wait to serve the Kenyan Cuisine.*



*Participants sample the Kenyan Cuisine*



# TRADE AND INVESTMENT

## THE HAVANA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR 2016 HAVANA, CUBA

The Kenya High Commission, Ottawa, Canada in collaboration with the newly opened Kenya Embassy in Havana Cuba participated at the FIHAV - Feria Internacional de la Habana in Havana Cuba from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016.



Amb. (Prof.) Jane K Onsongo, Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Robert Kobia, First Counselor and Mrs. Sophia Amboye Second Counsellor represented the Mission. Amb. Anthony Muchiri, Charge d' Affaires at the Kenya Embassy Cuba was joined by Mr. Guyo Barako, Finance Attaché and Ms Beatrice Hernadez at the show on all the days. Amb. Muchiri led the entire team until the closure of the fair. African countries represented in the fair were Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Gabon, Namibia and Algeria.

The Kenyan booth was visited by high ranking Cuban officials including the Vice president of the Cuba Council of State, Salvador Valdés Mesa, officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Health and Foreign Trade. A total of 1142 visitors were received at the booth.

The Mission displayed various brands of Kenyan tea, Coffee, fabrics, hats, shirts, key holders, wood carvings soap-stone carvings, and brochures depicting tourism products and flowers. The

officials manning the booth were branded in T-shirts with Kenya flag colours which made the booth very attractive to many visitors.



*Cubans visit Kenyan Booth during the Havana International Trade Fair 2016*

# PICTORIALS



*H.E. Amb. John Lanyasunya with The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada on the Occasion of the Holiday Dinner-Reception hosted by the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016.*





*Members of the Parliamentary Committee led by Hon. Sabina Chege pay a courtesy call on the High Commission on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 during the Benchmarking Tour to the Canadian House of Common and Senate.*



*Dinner hosted by the Kenya High Commission for the Kenyan Swimmers in Windsor, Ontario, on 8th December 2016*



*The Mayor of Mississauga and some award recipients pose for a group photograph during the Jamhuri Day Dance in Mississauga, Ontario on 3rd December 2016.*

