

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. BENSON H.O. OGUTU, AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF
KENYA'S HONORY CONSULATE IN NAGOYA, JAPAN
21ST NOVEMBER 2013**

Mr. Jun Karube, President of Toyota Tsusho Corporation,
Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura
Governor and other local leaders present,
Excellencies and Colleagues from the African Diplomatic Corps,
Honorary Consuls present,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to warmly congratulate Mr. Jun Karube on his appointment as the very first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kenya in Japan. I do this on behalf of my colleagues present here namely: Ambassadors of Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as well as those who have not made it but were able to send their representatives, i.e. Djibouti, Morocco, and Zimbabwe. I also wish to thank Japanese Government's representatives and other agencies for joining us this evening. I acknowledge the presence of top executives of Toyota. But permit me to make special mention of Amb. Dennis Awori (Chairman of Toyota East Africa), my predecessor in whose footsteps I follow and with whom I have closely worked in enhancing our bilateral ties with Japan...

In appointing Mr. Karube for the position of Honorary Consul, the Government of Kenya has taken due cognizance of the growing and mutually beneficial relations between Kenya and Toyota Tsusho Corporation. During his tenure as President of Toyota Tsusho Corporation, he has shaped and implemented the company's joint strategy for Africa under its Global 2020 Vision. Consequently, the company has greatly expanded its operations in Kenya, making Nairobi the regional headquarters of Toyota in Eastern Africa. More importantly, the Toyota Tsusho was the first private entity to sign an MOU with the Secretariat implementing Kenya's development Blue Print – Vision 2030. Thus, Toyota is one of the most important partners in Kenya's development efforts.

As you all may be aware, this year marks Kenya's golden jubilee and the 50th Anniversary of the Japan-Kenya diplomatic relations. These relations have grown from strength to strength courtesy of entities like TTC, whose current activities in Kenya entail investments in both automotive and non-automotive sectors. The latter category encompasses wide-ranging fields such as power and infrastructure,

oil and mineral resources, environmental protection, agricultural mechanization and HRD. His appointment is therefore of great significance as it reflects our desire to enhance our bilateral relations particularly in the economic and commercial spheres.

Africa is the next frontier for economic growth in the world. As we continue with the implementation of TICAD V Action Plan (YAP), it is our hope that many Japanese companies will tap into the investment opportunities abound in the continent. Towards this end, last August, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry led a large investment and trade delegation of senior government officials and top business executives to Africa. It is noteworthy that the private sector was headed by none other than Mr. Karube. We are convinced that TTC's increased prominence in Kenya, and Africa at large will inspire more Japanese interests in our continent.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to once again congratulate Mr. Karube and wish him all success on this very important assignment. I assure him of all the necessary facilitation from my Embassy. I am equally confident that the business fraternity will similarly lend its full support in his noble endeavours.

Thank you very much, and I wish you all an enjoyable evening.