

**REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BENSON H.O. OGUTU DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY
OF THE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION TRAINING FOR MINISTRY OF ENERGY & PETROLEUM OF
KENYA ON 23RD OCTOBER, 2014 ; TOKYO JAPAN**

- ◆ Mr. Shigehiro Moriya; Managing Director, Japan Geological Institute (JGI Inc.);
 - ◆ Mr. Kiyotaka Ikegaya; Director, Information Centre for Petroleum Exploration and Production (ICEP);
 - ◆ Mr. Hiroyuki Yazawa; Group Leader, Energy & Infrastructure, Toyota Tsusho Corporation;
 - ◆ Participants of the training programme;
 - ◆ Ladies and Gentlemen,
1. It gives me great pleasure to make a few remarks at this closing ceremony of this important training on Petroleum exploration for our Kenyan officials from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. Indeed the role of increased energy generation as the key enabler to the attainment of Kenya's Vision 2030 cannot be overemphasized. As such we find this kind of collaboration and other previous similar initiatives spearheaded by Toyota Tsusho, Japan Geological Institute, ICEP, and partners tremendously timely and beneficial.
 2. I therefore take this early opportunity on behalf of the Government of Kenya to register our special thanks to the Government of Japan through the Ministry of Energy Trade and Industrialization (METI); the Japan Geological Institute, and Toyota Tsusho for organizing this nine day intensive training programme for our officials.
 3. We feel privileged to partner with prominent institutions such as Japan Geological Institute with vast experience in conducting such training programmes. It is also encouraging to note that this is the third time Kenya has benefited from similar training following the 2010 and 2012 courses. The maintained momentum clearly indicates our two countries' earnest efforts in deepening further mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector.
 4. To this end we appreciate the recognition Japan has accorded the Kenya's development endeavours in general. With specific reference to energy, it is noteworthy that Japan has been one of our major partners especially in the fields of hydro and geothermal power generation. I am aware that so far our various energy agencies have signed a number of accords with their counterpart agencies notably JOGMEC, JICA, and Toyota Tsusho on energy development in the areas of training & capacity building, and exploration. We are

desirous of even stronger and deeper cooperation in the field, including areas of petroleum infrastructure projects; identification & development of coal bed methane in Kenya's Coal belt for power generation, and research on biodiesel products, among others.

5. We recall that on 17th October, 2014 His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta Commissioned the 140MW Olkaria IV plant, developed in partnership with Toyota Tsusho. This development is expected to reduce the cost of energy by 30% and ultimately reduce the cost of production as well.
6. We commend Toyota Tsusho for the increasingly important role it has played in support of the key projects critical to the attainment of Vision 2030 ranging from energy, infrastructure, agriculture, human resource development among others. Toyota Tsusho is now a perfect model of reference of private –Public partnership for other Japanese entities that would like to invest in Kenya and the region.
7. On her part, the Government of Kenya is committed to continued institutional reforms in the energy sector, including a strong regulatory framework and economic reforms that encourage foreign investment in the sector. Looking at the course outline, I am greatly encouraged to note that the knowledge, expertise and good practices learnt from this 9days' course will go a long way in aiding our efforts to improve the energy sector.
8. It is my hope that we will continue to nurture and cultivate this collaboration to even deeper and stronger partnerships between our two friendly countries.

Thank You.