



December 24, 2015

Dear Fellow Kenyan,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the KIJA Secretariat.

2015 has been a historic year for the Diaspora; marked with milestone events that have seen the engagement of diaspora by Government reach a new level of partnership.

The launching of the Diaspora Policy and Foreign Policy in January, the hosting of the first Diaspora Conference in April, and the launch of the Diaspora Communication Strategy at the just concluded Diaspora Homecoming Reception, demonstrates the commitment by the government to ensure Diaspora become their new development partners. We laud the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade for the unwavering support in ensuring that this engagement process is sought with diligence.

For us Kenyans in Japan, the year has been phenomenal. Working in collaboration with our embassy in Tokyo, we have set a special precedence of how the government can partner with the Diaspora to link our countries of residence with Kenya and to advance our country's global agenda. The visiting of the H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta in March provided a rare opportunity to showcase what Kenyans in Japan stand for when it comes to our place in national development. We continue to stand by our motto of "not what the government can do for us, but what we, Kenyans in Japan, can do in support of our motherlands development".

The August Kenya-Japan Business seminar held in Nairobi as well as a roundtable and luncheon hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta showed the importance that Kenya and Japan is placing on each other to support development. It also shows the importance of Kenya in Japan's agenda in the global arena. This culminated with the selection of Kenya as the first country outside Japan to host the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), scheduled to take place in August/September of 2016. All these developments have come with critical roles that the Kenyans in Japan must play to put our country to the best level possible.

This year, we have had several Diaspora activities, key of which included, KIJA-OITA, KIJA-NAGASAKI, KIJA-NAGOYA, KIJA-KANTO progress meetings all of which were graced by H.E. Ambassador S.K. Maina. This was followed by the Kenya Diaspora Investment Conference, which took place in October bringing together Kenyan and Japan's government and the corporate sector major players. Following this were the end of year parties held in different regions which provided opportunities for catching up and networking, and for which your contributions made them worthy remembering.

I would like to thank you for the your efforts in sustaining the momentum all through 2015. Your inputs into the successes of KIJA have been crucial in make KIJA the best Kenyans Abroad association globally.

I would also like to convey our special gratitude to H.E., Ambassador S.K. Maina and the entire embassy Team for putting Diaspora at heart, and for providing unwavering support to KIJA. This year, the embassy's support has been critically important in putting us where we are today, and we are grateful for the time we have spend together discussing how to shape KIJA to have more impact in national development

KIJA has made incredible strides due to the commitment and ambition of you. The year ahead shows great promise, and the work done this year has laid a firm structural foundation that allows us to continue to deliver with the efficiency that is needed to support our government achieve its mission on diaspora engagement. 2016 holds a greater promise, and more work for us, especially in preparations for TICAD VI and we call for your continued support.

As we planned ahead, we wish you and your family and friends a prosperous 2016!

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Mutisya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emmanuel Mutisya

Chairman, Kenyans in Japan Association