

STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS. ROSE MAKENA MUCHIRI, AMBASSADOR OF KENYA TO THE ROYAL KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS DURING THE OCCASSION OF MASHUJAA DAY PRESIDED OVER BY H.E. MR. WILLIAM .S. RUTO, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, 20TH OCTOBER, 2013

His Excellency, Mr. William S. Ruto, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya and Her Excellency, Mrs. Rachel Ruto,

Our visiting leaders who include Honourable Senators, Members of Parliament and other Kenyan Leaders’,

My colleague and co-host, Ambassador Weru, Belgium, Ambassador Dr. Sang, Sweden, Ambassador Gitonga, Austria, Ambassador. Salma, France, Ambassador Bramwell, Spain, and Mrs. Rosemary Owino, Charge d’affaires, Germany,

Distinguished Ambassadors and friends of Kenya,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fellow Kenyans,

On this joyous day, we celebrate and honour our freedom fighters, amongst other post-independence and modern day heroes. We have a very unique and privileged opportunity as Kenyans in Europe to be together with our leaders as we reflect on the struggles that our fallen heroes underwent for our Sovereignty, our freedom, our Kenya.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our fallen heroes, would agree with me today, when I say, we must reflect on what we must achieve today and in the future. They, our fallen heroes, would want us, as Kenyans to focus on our achievements such as our recent successful and peaceful elections; the new constitutional dispensation and Kenya’s Vision 2030 that are products of a Kenyan driven process and a fitting tribute to our founding fathers and freedom fighters.

Our Constitution and Vision 2030 provides a strong foundation and framework for our growth and prosperity. We are encouraged by the development

milestones our Country has been making in various sectors such as the agricultural, industrial, education, ICT, small-medium enterprises and other service enterprise that have created jobs, increased incomes and continues to develop Kenya.

As Missions abroad we play our role by sourcing for new markets, seeking investors, new and affordable ways of doing business which in essence is what we are calling Economic Diplomacy.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Government and the International Community at large have continued to work towards a secure, stable and peaceful Region. Even in the face of great challenges, we must remain steadfast and united as a Country and condemn terrorism as a cowardly act.

While we are happy that we held peaceful elections under the new Constitution, we are however saddened that our leaders are been distracted by the manner in which the International Criminal Court cases are been handled. We recognize the need for a balanced international justice system that treats everyone fairly.

We also look forward to an expeditious resolution on these issues to enable us pull of energies together and develop our country to where it's supposed to be, a new industrializing, middle-income economy.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I wish to state that you, our Kenyan Diaspora are also our heroes. You strive to survive in difficult circumstances abroad and you have made great contributions to Kenya's development and growing success. You deserve better services from us and indeed we shall strive to work with you more closely for the prosperity of our Country.

Thank You and May God bless Kenya.