

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Haile Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the to celebrate the 42-year anniversary of the Independence Day of Zimbabwe held in Tokyo on April 25, 2022:

- **H.E. Air Vice Marshal Titus Mehliwa Jonathan ABU-BASUTU, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe**
- **Honorable Mr. Ichiro AISAWA – Member of the House of Representatives and Chairperson Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship Association**
- **Mr. Koji YONETANI – Assistant Minister and Director General for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan**
- **Honorable Guests present**
- **Excellencies and Dear Colleagues**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am taking the floor to extend, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and in my capacity as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, to convey our deep-felt gratitude and thanks for the invitation extended to all of us by His Excellency ABU-BASUTU to celebrate the 42-year anniversary of the Independence Day of Zimbabwe here in Tokyo. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to congratulate on this auspicious occasion the government and citizens of Zimbabwe for their independence.

1966 the white rulers of Southern Rhodesia, which is the current nation state called Zimbabwe, lead by Ian Smith issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence which sent shockwaves into the hearts and minds of all Africans because it was in clear defiance to our dignity, right and request for freedom from centuries old rule of slavery and colonialism. The people of Zimbabwe defeated successfully these heinous idea through a heroic protracted political and armed struggle on April 18,1980. A nation based on equality, fraternity, freedom and justice was born as a result.

Congratulations Zimbabweans for your victory and we all wish you success and achievements on your continued relentless nation building efforts against faced external and external challenges. Inclusive security of Africa means a better future to mankind. Slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism are outdated and obsolete.

We are all proud of you Zimbabwe, and thank you,