

Remarks made by H.E. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the luncheon held in honor of H.E. Mr. Hisham EL-ZIMAITY Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Japan on February 27, 2015.

Your Excellency Mr. Hisham ELI-ZIMAITY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Japan

Your Excellencies and Dear Colleagues,

As you all know, we are here, gathered in this luncheon today, to honor and bid farewell, our dear brother and colleague, Mr. Hisham ELI-ZIMAITY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Japan. As we always say when we bid farewell to our dear colleagues, there is time to come and time to go. The very special thing about Ambassador ELI-ZIMAITY departure is, in His Excellency's long experience of diplomatic carrier which has taken him to Dakar, Senegal; Cairo, Egypt; Geneva, Switzerland; Cairo, Egypt; New York, USA; Cairo, Egypt; Brussels, Belgium; Paris, France; Islamabad, Pakistan; Cairo, Egypt; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Budapest, Hungary; Cairo, Egypt; Tokyo, Japan; since 1980, speak for themselves in many words which I have no capacity to fathom and explain in detail in such a short time and occasion.

The Ambassador has served Egypt the continent of Africa with a distinguished leadership, wisdom, skill in diplomacy marked with solidarity and friendship which was highly appreciated and valued by all the members of the African Diplomatic Corps, the delegation of the European union, international organizations in Tokyo and all local partners of Egypt at different levels in Japan: i.e. politicians, parliamentarians, government bureaucrats, academia, business leaders and his Excellency's compatriots and friends extending for a period of three years since December 5, 2011.

When the Arab Republic of Egypt was faced with all kinds of internal and external diplomatic challenges, pressure, constraints, and problems, including but not excluding economic and military pressures in its nation building challenges during his tenure here in Tokyo, His Excellency has kept his head high above the clouds, focused in his mission to communicate and promote to Japan the

strategic importance of Egypt, as well as the continent of Africa.

It is not easy for me to detail how Your Excellency managed to achieve this level of resilience during this luncheon but I am sure you will shade some light into this phenomenal achievement in your remarks to Excellencies and Dear Colleagues today.

The recent visit of Prime Minister Abe to Cairo and major bilateral agreements signed by Japan and Egypt on January 18, 2015 clearly reflect not only the hard work and diplomatic coordination Your Excellency has put into it to enhance and develop the relations of both countries but it shows great personal influence and capacity for achievement for these kinds of diplomatic success of Your Excellency's during the last three years tenure in Tokyo.

Your Excellency have also shared graciously Your long time experience of diplomacy in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia with our African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) by Your active participation in the activities of the group which were seldom influenced by the volatile situation daily unfolding at home. Let me assure Your Excellency, on behalf of all Excellencies and Dear Colleagues present and myself in this farewell luncheon, that we all the members of ADC hope and promise, on this occasion, to continue on the same path, as individuals as well as a group, in our collective diplomacy here in Japan after Your Excellency's departure and elsewhere where our destiny might take us. We promise Your Excellency that the aspirations of the founding fathers of Africa, like Egypt's Jamal Abdel Nasser, member states and most of all the peace, stability, prosperity, cooperation and unity of the people of Africa shall always remain the main pillar of our engagements with Japan in our collective diplomacy.

Egypt is not only a one of the major cradle of Civilizations in Africa, with over 88 million inhabitants, Egypt is the largest country in North Africa and the Arab World the third-largest in Africa, and the fifteenth-most populous in the world. It is part and a strategic bridge of the Middle Eastern, Red Sea and Nile Basin countries in the region across the coast of Europe and Asia Minor. The strategic importance of Egypt is not only appreciated by African and Middle Eastern country but globally.

With this short statement, I would like to call for a toast, on this

occasion:

For the good health and best wishes to Your Excellency, Your Excellency's best half, Mrs. Fayza El-ZIMAITAY and son;

On behalf of the ADC and myself I would like to seize this occasion to thank Your Excellency, once again, for the great support Your Excellency gave to the African Diplomatic Corps activities here in Tokyo; and

Call Excellencies and Dear Colleagues to join me and raise their glass,

Kampai!!