Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) on a Luncheon to Greet President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania organized by AFRECO July 29, 2016:

President Jakaya Mrisho KIKWETE of Tanzania
Senator Mr. Tetsuro YANO President of AFRECO
H.E. Mr. H.E. Mr. Mathias Meinrad CHIKAWE
Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Japan
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me first thank Senator Yano for giving me an opportunity to address this event on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and myself.

We all know, Tanzania has carried very high - two torches of dignity in Africa since its independence in 1961. Tanzania carried in one hand the torch of the cause of Pan Africanism and paid a heavy sacrifice for this noble cause in our continent. Tanzania was a key state and one of the frontline states which brought and hastened the white rule of South Africa and Rhodesia by pressing sanctions and giving unlimited support to the exiled ANC and ZANU freedom fighters in their cause. This was the torch that lighted the prairie fire in the Southern part of Africa.

The second torch was its long odyssey of building a strong nation worthy of its noble history. Starting from the homegrown union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in the early years of its independence until today, Tanzania’s governance, agriculture, industry, construction, mining, tourism, banking, transport and social services are successfully growing. In 2015 GDP growth has reached 7.1%, which is one of the highest in Eastern African region.

As a result of the historic visionary leadership of the country, demographic, linguistic as well as wild-life and nature’s significant distribution in the country, the strategic location of Tanzania and its human resources potential are gaining fast their importance to the neighboring countries peace, stability, prosperity, regional cooperation and integration i.e. with Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique as well as the Indian Ocean countries and the rest of the word.

It is therefore an honor for me to greet and welcome to Tokyo a great son and leader of this great nation today. I sincerely hope that Your Excellency’s current visit to Japan will greatly contribute in the understanding and enhancement of the bilateral relations between Japan and Tanzania. I am also confident through your wisdom and experience that Your Excellency’s visit, which is being conducted one month before TICAD VI Summit of African leaders and Japan in Nairobi, shall further underline and highlight the three priorities of Africa i.e. industrialization, health and social stability in its cooperation with Japan.