

**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 Sayonara Luncheon held for H. E. Mr. Joao Miguel VAHEKONI Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola to Japan on March 30, 2018:**

H. E. Mr. Joao Miguel VAHEKONI Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola to Japan

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

In my capacity as a Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) of Tokyo and the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea, let me first and foremost express, highlight our profound gratitude and thanks for the wonderful contribution of Your Excellency not only for the enhancement and strengthening of Angola and Japan relations but also for the special solidarity and a very successful contribution made to Africa's collective diplomacy here in Tokyo since December 15, 2011.

This Sayonara lunch is to honor and remember Your Excellency 's wisdom, honesty, and practical leadership. Your Excellency's work experience has been unreservedly demonstrated and shared with all of us (brothers and sisters) in the ADC for the last seven years. This is not at all a farewell in the classical sense.

Your Excellency has made ADC work a look alike what our forefathers practiced for generations – a rebirth of a “a rule of consensus under-one-tree” in Your Chancery in Tokyo. Your Excellency has provided a working environment exceptionally conducive for the entire ADC missions here in Tokyo. This good will has enabled ADC to better position and improves policy/partnership dialogue with our partners in Japan . It has also made our continued different meetings more efficient, productive and true African more than any time in the past.

Ambassador VAHEKONI!

Thank you so much!

“ADC proposal for TICAD VI” was born in Your Chancery and got married in Nairobi. “ADC proposal for TICAD VII” is yet to be born. Let me assure Your Excellency that we shall continue to work together to overcome all challenges facing Africa - united - not divided. Africa Day celebration held in the past in Angola Chancery clearly demonstrated this message.

The 2nd Japan-Africa Business Forum was held in Tokyo on 25-26 July 2017 on the theme ‘Investment and Business Opportunities with Africa’. AfDB Asia External Representation Office and African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo organized this Forum, in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Thank you so much for the leadership that Your Excellency provided to this very important and successful

forum of policy dialogue to look for ways and means to enhance and create business tie-ups between Japan and Africa through the TICAD process.

As a chair of the ADC's Trade and Investment, Your Excellency's relentless effort to create a bridge between Africa and Japan business through this and other forums shall be greatly missed. Let me assure on Your Excellency's departure from Tokyo that we are always together in the difficult odyssey of serving and building a strong continent of Africa wherever our fate and appointments might take us next.

To wrap up my brief remark of Sayonara, let me ask Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, to raise glass and join me to wish Ambassador VEHEKENI and his family health and happiness.

Kampaii!!