

**Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of the Sayonara Luncheon by the African Diplomatic Corps for H.E. Dr. Samir ARROUR, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco, and H.E. Dr. Major General Reuben NGWENYA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016:**

- H.E. Mr. Samir ARROUR, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco,
- H.E. Dr. Reuben NGWENYA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi,
- Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Members of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) present,

Let me first thank and express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Jacob Dickie NKATE Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to Japan for organizing this Sayonara Luncheon, to honor, on this occasion, the solidarity and friendship extended to all the ADC members by H.E. Dr. Samir ARROUR, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Dr. (Major General) Reuben NGWENYA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi, and to bid them farewell on their departure after the successful completion of their mission in Tokyo, where they served since March 12, 2009 and June 28, 2011 respectfully.

The ADC is going to miss once again two of its outstanding colleagues who worked very hard for the success of our collective diplomacy in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process.

Ambassador ARROUR in his capacity as a chair of the Trade and Investment Committee of ADC was pivotal to the success of Japan Africa Business Forum which was held from 10 to 11 June 2014, in Tokyo. I believe, this has been a great opportunity that has enhanced everyone's knowledge about business opportunities and tie-ups between Africa and Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to convey special thanks to Ambassador ARROUR for bringing together in this important forum and on various occasions: African Diplomatic Corps, African Development Bank, JICA, JETRO and all the supporting organizations: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Keidanren, Kezai Doyukai, JOGMEC, JBIC, UNIDO, UNDP, World Bank Group, Africa Society of Japan, Association of African Economy and Development of Japan and the business community of Japan. I am sure TICAD VI, which is going to be held in Nairobi, Kenya coming August shall benefit greatly from Your Excellency's past efforts.

Our group has greatly benefited from the leadership qualities of a carrier African soldier - Major General NGWENYA in its midst. His Excellency has been the invisible hand on the steering wheel of all our collective contributions in building the pillars of TICAD V and VI always ready to share his strategic perspectives in the relations between Africa and Japan in the TICAD process.

Both Ambassadors have greatly contributed in enhancing and expanding the bilateral relations between Japan and respective countries.

Dr. Arrour has served his country since 1984 three times in Tokyo and Rabat. He also served in Lisbon. Mr, Arrour is a hard working carrier diplomat and a specialist in Asia-Pacific region.

Major General Ngwenya though always with a smiling face has served his country in defense and security appointments since 1980 before he took his current post in Tokyo. To be an innovative leader and effective manager to make a positive contribution is main objective of His Excellency as a soldier, which perfectly fitted in His Excellency's diplomatic experience here in Tokyo.

It is always hard and difficult to say goodbye, but the ADC members and myself consider themselves to be fortunate to have met and worked with a special person like Your Excellencies. We all deeply appreciated the wisdom and hard work that you so kindly shared with all of us during Your current mission in Tokyo.

As we say Sayonara today, Your Excellencies and we all the ADC members present, is just to remind ourselves that Sayonara are not forever, nor are they the end. They are simply words to say that we will miss you and your family dearly and that we will remember you all fondly. Although we may be separated by time and distance in the interim, nothing will diminish the important role that you have and always will play in our lives and the African issues. We have to keep in touch wherever we are.

As a token to commemorate this day, the ADC would like to present this small memorabilia and invite both Excellencies to make farewell remarks please,

Thank you