

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. Mr. Jacob Dickie NKATE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Botswana on November 29, 2016:

H.E. Mr. Jacob Dickie NKATE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Botswana,

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues,

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 last Sayonara Luncheon in such a short notice.

This luncheon is very special occasion today, because Ambassador NKATE himself is on departure after a successful completion of mission in Tokyo, where His Excellency served since February 13, 2013.

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

His Excellency has been a pivotal contributor in building the pillars of TICAD V and VI and has greatly contributed in enhancing and expanding the bilateral relations between Botswana and Japan.

It is always hard and difficult to say goodbye, but the ADC members and myself consider ourselves to be very fortunate to have met and worked with a special person like Your Excellency.

We all deeply value and appreciate the wisdom and hard work that you so kindly shared with all of us during Your Excellency's mission here in Tokyo.

As we say Sayonara to Your Excellency today, it is just to remind ourselves that Sayonara are not forever, nor is it the end. They are simply the words to say that we will miss you and your family dearly.

Although we may be separated by time and distance in the interim, nothing will diminish the important role that Your Excellency have and that will always play in our lives and into the African mutual issues of interest.

On this occasion let me wish Your Excellency and family good health, peaceful life and prosperity.

We all hope and wish success in Your Excellency's future endeavors once again.

We have to keep in touch wherever we are. As a token to commemorate this day, the ADC would like to present a small memorabilia and invite Your Excellency to make a farewell remarks.

Just before conclusion for the smooth transfer of Ambassador NKATE's work as a treasurer, I would like to take this opportunity to request ADC to suggest a replacement in this luncheon meeting.

Thank you very much for your understanding,