

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 Breakfast Meeting of President Yoweri K. Museveni of the Republic of Uganda with the African Diplomatic Corps Tokyo on September 10, 2015:

Your Excellency Mr. Yoweri K. Museveni President of the Republic of Uganda
Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Japan Mrs. Betty G. AKECH-OKULLO
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues
Honorable members of the Ugandan delegation

Let me say on the onset of my remark that it is a great honor for me, on behalf of all the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo and myself, to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the opportunity that was kindly given by President Yoweri Museveni to share this early morning breakfast with us today. Let me also cease this opportunity to welcome Mr. President to Japan and express our heartfelt good wishes for the Your Excellency's current official visit to Japan to be a successful and fruitful one.

Having said that, let me kindly ask Mr. President, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues and Distinguished delegates to observe a moment of silence to pay our tribute to the Ugandan sons and daughters who are paying with their dear lives for peace in Somalia and our region.

Mr. President

There are 38 African Ambassadors here in Tokyo currently. The high level of African collective diplomatic presence and active continued engagement in Tokyo has helped in exchanging ideas and opinions on ways and means of creating and improving existing mutually beneficial tie-ups in many areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation through Japan's long standing commitment and measures taken to African countries' development through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (**TICAD**), MDG, NEPAD, AU and Regional Economic Cooperation which are growing steadily and surely. But African countries have yet to claim a developed, robust and direct trading partnership with Japan. Therefore, Mr. President, we believe Your Excellency's current official visit to Japan shall definitely contribute to highlight the strategic mutual importance of Africa's location, resources and availed business opportunities to Japan and boost the cooperation process a step further.

The African Diplomatic Corps is well aware of Mr. President's continued efforts on the need to cooperate within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations with Africa. It's also imperative for the African Union Commission within its given architecture of peace to further explore mutual ways and means to help the African efforts in maintaining stability and ensuring prosperity in our region. Your Excellency's wise leadership and influence are always highly appreciated in our region both as freedom fighter and statesman for more than two decades now.

Mr. President

Sharing Your Excellency's African wisdom and current affairs insight with all of us is highly appreciated this morning.

Before that I would like to ask all African Diplomatic Corps members present to introduce themselves starting from our right here.

Thank you Mr. President again!