

**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. Godwin Nsude AGBO Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and H.E. Mr. Balmiro Jose MALATE Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique on September 8, 2015:**

Your Excellency Mr. Godwin Nsude AGBO Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Your Excellency Mr. Balmiro Jose MALATE Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Members of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) present,

Let me first thank and express our usual 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 brotherhood, solidarity and friendship extended to all the ADC members by H. E. Mr. Godwin Nsude AGBO Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and H.E. Mr. Balmiro Jose MALATE Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique and to bid them farewell on their departure from their post in Tokyo, after a successful and fruitful completion of their mission in Japan. Ambassador AGBO has served since April 30, 2008 and Ambassador MALATE has served since December 8, 2009 in their posts.

The ADC is also convinced that Your Excellencies strong efforts and hard work during those past years have concretely contributed to the strengthening and deepening of the bilateral relations between Japan and Nigeria and Japan and Mozambique.

The ADC was blessed with both of Your Excellencies' seasoned and very active diplomatic contribution in the collective endeavors that we are all continuously making to promote, enhance and deepen the friendly relations between Japan and our countries and Africa. Your Excellencies have given unreserved support to most of the activities conducted by ADC.

As we all know, currently Nigeria is the world's 20th and 1<sup>st</sup> African largest economy. A regional power on the African continent, Nigeria is a founding member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, OPEC, and the United Nations amongst other international organizations. In the 2014 Ebola outbreak, Nigeria was the first country to effectively contain and eliminate the threat that ravaged Guinea, Liberia and Serra Leone in the West African region. Since 2002, the North East of the country has seen sectarian violence by Boko Haram extremist violence, a challenge and security threat to the secular government system established since independence and regional peace. Ambassador AGBO in his diplomatic efforts has succeeded in promoting the mutual cooperation of Nigeria and Japan in both the areas of success and challenges facing his country during his tenure here In Japan. I would also like to

take this opportunity to ask Mr. AGBO to briefly give us an insight into some of the success and challenges His Excellency might want to share with us during his tenure here in Japan of the last years.

Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources. The country's economy is based largely on agriculture, but industries, mainly food and beverages, chemical manufacturing, aluminum and petroleum production, are also fast growing. The country's tourism sector is also growing. One of the pivotal states of the Southern African Region is emerging as one of the key partners of Japan and other developed economies. The dynamic effort and work that Ambassador Malate has put in the last years into this effort has greatly benefited the mutual interest of both Japan and Mozambique. Ambassador MALATE exemplary contribution into our collective diplomacy shall defiantly be greatly missed. I would like to kindly ask His Excellency also to briefly share his insight and final words of wisdom and guidance with us here today especially as the outgoing chair of the TICAD Committee. Please accept the ADC's and myself gratitude and thanks for the outstanding contribution you have made to the successful kick-start of the TICAD VI 2016 NAIROBI Summit. Please, be rest assured that we will continue to struggle together on the same path you have chartered for ADC to promote the strategic importance of Africa to all our partners in Japan.

Your Excellencies,

In my conclusion, as we always say, it is always hard and difficult to say goodbye. All members of the ADC and myself consider themselves to be fortunate to have met and worked with a special people like Ambassador AGBO and Ambassador MALATE as well as Madame AGBO and Madame GUAMBE. As we say Sayonara, Your Excellenceis, it 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 brothers and sisters till we find our common destiny of African Unity.

Thank you

Ambassador AGBO and Ambassador MALATE, as a token to commemorate this day, the ADC would like to present this small memorabilia,

please,