



EMBASSY OF KENYA, ROME

**MESSAGE BY H.E JACKLINE YONGA, AMBASSADOR OF KENYA
TO ITALY ON THE OCCASION MARKING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DECEMBER 12, 2020,
ROME, ITALY.**

The Government of the Republic of Italy

My Colleagues from the Diplomatic Community

Excellencies

Kenyan Diaspora

Fellow Kenyans and Friends of Kenya,

1. Greetings to you all as we celebrate this year's 57th National Independence Day also known as ***Jamhuri Day***.
2. I would also like to convey warm greetings and best wishes from H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya to the People of Kenya on this momentous occasion.

3. Unfortunately, this is not a typical National day. 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. Traditionally, you would have been our guests at the Embassy celebrating with pomp and colour and enjoying the Kenyan cuisine. Due to the unprecedented challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic we have to adapt to the new ways of conducting diplomatic engagements through virtual meetings and gatherings.
4. 12th December of every year marks a very special place in our National calendar of events. It is the day we recall the sacrifices our forefathers made in securing our independence from colonial domination. We also celebrate the achievements made and reflect on the future we are bestowing to our future generations.

Colleagues, Fellow Kenyans, and Friends of Kenya

5. Kenya has made tremendous progress over the last 57 years in a number of development areas within the Social, Economic and Political arena such as infrastructure, human capital, technological advancement and innovation.

6. The Government continues with this upward momentum in transforming Kenya into a newly industrialized, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment. We celebrate these achievements and commit to sustain the momentum.
7. This year the world has experienced worldwide unprecedented challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
8. To mitigate their impacts, the Government has rolled out a vibrant stimulus packages focused on re-energizing the economy to enable it to recover faster and become more resilient. This is mainly in promotion of the digital economy, education and manufacturing.
9. We thank all our friends, who not only stood with us in solidarity but also extended various level of support.

Ladies and Gentlemen

10. With regards to bilateral relations, I wish to state that Kenya and Italy continue to enjoy warm and cordial relations. This has culminated in the recent High-level visit by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya to his counterpart, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, the President of the Republic of Italy.

11. This was also solidified by the ministerial visits by Amb. Raychelle Omamo, and Hon. Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, Kenya's Cabinet Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Health.
12. The private sector and the business community from both sides are expanding collaborations and partnerships especially in technical assistance and capacity building for renewable energy as well as exports of beverages (coffee), horticulture, tropical fruits and vegetables.
13. On the multilateral front, Kenya continues to promote rule-based multilateral systems in seeking solutions to global challenges.
14. We are grateful to the Government of Italy and all the countries who contributed to Kenya successful election as a Non-Permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the duration 2021-2022.
15. I wish to conclude by thanking the Kenyan Diaspora working, studying and living in Italy for your resilience and great support to the Embassy during the difficult times of COVID -19.

**HAVE A HAPPY JAMHURI DAY!!!
MERRY CHRIMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
KEEEP SAFE STAY SAFE!!**

**GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS KENYA
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ASANTENI SANA
HAPPY JAMHURI DAY!**

