



EMBASSY OF KENYA, ROME

**MESSAGE FROM H.E. JACKLINE YONGA, AMBASSADOR OF KENYA
TO ITALY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF KENYA, DECEMBER 12, 2022.**

The Government of the Italian Republic; Greece; Malta; Cyprus; Albania.

The Diplomatic Community,

Kenyan Diaspora and Friends of Kenya,

1. Greetings to you all as we celebrate Kenya's 59th Independence Day **"Jamhuri Day"**.
2. Let me begin by applauding the cordial and robust relationship with Italy and countries of accreditation.
3. I convey warm greetings and best wishes from H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H, the President of the Republic of Kenya and the People of Kenya as we observe this auspicious occasion.
4. On this occasion of the Anniversary of our Independence, the staff at the Embassy and on my own behalf, wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all Kenyans resident in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Albania.
5. This is the day we celebrate our achievements and reflect on the challenges and prospects for the future and pay tribute to the many men and women who through their vision, tireless struggles and selflessness won us freedom and sovereignty.
6. We are pleased to join our fellow Kenyans in marking this auspicious occasion themed **"Innovation Jamhuri Day"** as we take pride in honouring H.E. President Ruto who has demonstrated his commitment to

ensuring that the country boosts its efforts in embracing technology and creating opportunities in the digital space.

Colleagues, Fellow Kenyans, and Friends of Kenya

7. The elections held on 9th August 2022 demonstrated to the world the maturity of our democracy and respect for our new Constitution.
8. The Government of Kenya appreciates the role of the Diaspora in Kenya's national development and H.E. President William Ruto has therefore elevated the Diaspora to become the **48th County** and has created a State Department for Diaspora Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to specifically handle Diaspora matters.
9. Furthermore, H.E the president has pledged to strengthen diaspora services in all embassies and missions, work together with parliament to set up a committee that will exclusively deal with Diaspora issues, set up a mechanism for public participation by the Diaspora and work closely with the IEBC to expand and enhance diaspora participation in future elections.
10. Kenya Embassy in Rome recognises the role of Kenyan Diaspora and their contribution to national development not only through their remittances that are a major contributor to the growth of our national economy but also enhancing and promoting the social and cultural image of the country.
11. I therefore wish to encourage you to continue investing back at home and act as Kenya's goodwill ambassadors in promoting tourism and encouraging foreign direct investment.
12. The government is committed to creating a business-friendly environment, eradicate barriers that hamper business development and growth and make Kenya one of the most attractive business destinations.
13. As a mission, we pledge to remain committed to offering timely consular services in an efficient and effective manner.

14. I urge all Kenyans to use the Diaspora association vehicles to come up with activities geared towards self-development and contributing to the development of a better Kenya for all.

15. In conclusion dear Kenyans, I wish to congratulate you for demonstrating unity which is a fundamental principle espoused in the Kenyan Constitution; making us very proud of our diversity and to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation.

HAVE A HAPPY JAMHURI DAY!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS KENYA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ASANTENI SANA!

GRAZIE MILLE!