



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, ROME

**MESSAGE BY H.E. JACKLINE YONGA, AMBASSADOR OF
REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO ITALIAN REPUBLIC ON THE OCCASION
TO MARK THE 60TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF
REPUBLIC OF KENYA, 12TH DECEMBER, 2023.**

**The Government of the Italian Republic,
My Colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps,
Excellences,**

**Dear Kenyan Diaspora and Friends of Kenya in Italy and our
Countries of Accreditation; Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Albania
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Greetings to you all as we celebrate the 60th Kenya's Independence Day "Jamhuri Day".
2. I convey warm greetings and best wishes from H.E. Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya and the People of Kenya as we observe this auspicious occasion.
3. 12th December of every year, is a day that Kenyans honour and laud the resilience of the Kenyan people who triumphed over challenges to attain self-rule We also acknowledge the sacrifices of numerous freedom fighters that remain the defenders of our sovereignty and heroic fighters for our freedom.

Fellow Kenyans, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. We are fortunate and pleased to join fellow Kenyans in marking this auspicious occasion by recognizing the great strides that

Kenya has made despite numerous challenges. Kenya has continued to mature politically by consolidating its democratic institutions, embracing devolved system of government, hence taking governance, planning and services near the people and ensure equitable distribution of resources.

5. **In the economic front**, Kenya remains resolute on becoming an industrialized, middle-income country by ensuring the provision of a high quality of life for its citizens as per our economic blueprint-Vision 2030. Further to reaffirm our position as the regional hub, considerable investments in economic sectors of infrastructure has been undertaken.
6. Consequently, the President through the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**, has identified **Agriculture, the MSME economy, Affordable housing and Settlement, universal Healthcare, Digital Superhighway & the Creative Economy** as sectors geared towards achieving the Vision 2030.
7. In recognition of this year's Jamhuri Day theme, **"Youth, Creative and Sports"**, the government through the leadership of H.E. the President, have continuously been supporting the Youth through the **small and medium enterprises, Hustler fund, and expanding digital space**. Further, the government has expanded the digital space to ensure every Kenyans accesses digital space and its 5,000 services online. We urge Kenyans especially the Youth to take advantage of these services and continue registering their businesses and seek services from the government to steer development of our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. With regards to our **bilateral engagement** with Italy, Greece,

Cyprus, Malta and Albania, we have had robust bilateral relations which has led to Exchange of High level visits including Heads of State, ministerial and technical capacity. These engagements have further fostered extensive people-to-people connections, and a burgeoning trade partnership.

9. It is worth noting that Kenya and our Partner countries' Trade ties have continued to flourish with substantial investments in healthcare, education, tourism, hospitals, charity, agriculture and security sectors. We have so far signed MOUs/Agreements in the sectors of Agriculture, development of MSMEs, housing and urban settlement, health, the digital super highway and creative economy that are aimed at steering positive economic growth.
10. Compounded with the above, Kenya has been able to **cooperate and create partnership** in various investment ventures with Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Albania. These are in areas of technical assistance, capacity building for renewable energy, increasing and value addition of Kenya's exports like beverages (coffee and tea) horticulture, tropical fruits and vegetables, and leather products. This will greatly reinforce the progress towards achieving H.E. the President's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).
11. It is worth noting that Kenya has demonstrated her role in advocating for cleaner energy by undertaking to plant more trees as well as produce renewable energy in pursuant to a 100% climate-friendly grid by 2030. This is in a bid to **restore the environment** hence addressing the issue of climate change and country's food security in the long run.
12. **As Kenyan Diaspora** is a crucial player in Kenya's economy,

the Government has endeavored to continue creating a conducive environment for Kenyans at home, as well as those in the diaspora. This in terms of improving and boosting service delivery especially in consular matters and further focus on creation of jobs for the youth in the Diaspora.

13. I wish to thank our Diaspora, for taking a pivotal role in steering economic growth as well as enhancing and promoting the image of our country by continuously **remitting money back home**, thanks to the innovative mobile phone financial services that Kenya has invested in.

14. I wish also to take this opportunity to inform that in the Government's endeavor to Support Kenyans in the diaspora in harnessing more opportunities for employment and enterprise development, the government has organized **THE DIASPORA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE 2023 in Nairobi from 13 - 15 DECEMBER 2023 at KICC** both in personal and virtual. We encourage you to attend.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. In conclusion, Kenya wishes to **thank all our friends**, who not only stand with us but have continued to extend various level of support to deliver on the promise of prosperity for our people.

Happy 60th Independence Day!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

God bless you, God bless Kenya.

Thank you very much.

Asante Sana.

Grazie Mille!