



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN ANGOLA

AFRICA DAY 2020 IN ANGOLA

On 25th May 2020, marked the 57th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU). In this year's celebrations, Amb. Josphat K. Maikara, MBS in his capacity as the Dean of the Group of African Ambassadors and Ambassador of Kenya in Angola, participated in a virtual public lecture titled, **"COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT"**, organized by the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola. The Chief Guest at the lecture was H.E. Amb. Tête António, Minister for External Relations for the Republic of Angola.

In his remarks, Amb. Maikara noted that COVID-19 is the biggest public health emergency of our time. It has triggered global humanitarian and socio-economic crisis threatening to erode gains made in human development and as a consequence exerting pressure on governments and already strained resources.

Amb. Maikara added that, Africa has not been spared, and despite efforts employed by governments across the continent, the lives and livelihoods of the people have been affected this include loss of lives and jobs. The most hit being the poor and vulnerable groups who depend on daily wage to survive. The economy is also taking a hit, for instance, Africa's economic growth is projected to drop from an average of 3.2% in the previous three years to 1.8% in 2020.

The Ambassador recognized that, despite the gloomy side of COVID-19, it has opened up a host of possibilities across the continent, we see a rise in local innovations and youths maximising from the available technological capabilities to invent ventilators, testing kits, production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other medical devices and supplies. This is an indictment to Africa's capabilities and to the adage of African solutions to African problems.

Amb. Maikara reiterated that, in the true African Spirit of our founding fathers and as espoused in the Agenda 2063, this is the time for African countries to forge concerted collective efforts to rise from this challenge. He emphasized on the need to lay the foundations for a strong post-COVID-19 recovery in the medium and the long-term, and as the rise of the phoenix, together we shall prosper to greater heights.

During the lecture, H.E. Amb. Tête António mentioned that the pandemic is holding back the continent's economic growth, forcing it to correct some deficiencies, especially weak health systems and dependence on the sale of raw materials.

The Minister added that, Africa needs to find its own solution to combat COVID-19 pandemic and relaunch its economic and social development, otherwise it will plunge into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and aggravate more problems such as regional conflicts, poverty, misery and population exodus.

Amb. Josphat Maikara also took the opportunity to thank H.E. Amb. Tete Antonio and the Ministry for organizing the lecture. He further congratulated him on his appointment and reiterated the African Group of Ambassadors support in driving Africa's agenda.



Amb. Josphat K. Maikara, MBS Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Angola (left) and H.E. Amb. Tête António, Minister for External Relations, Republic of Angola



Amb. Josphat K. Maikara, MBS (Far right, front row) with senior Ministry of External Relations officials

LUANDA, 25TH MAY 2020