



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN ANGOLA

REMARKS BY AMB. JOSPHAT K. MAIKARA, MBS DEAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF AMBASSADORS IN ANGOLA DURING AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT THE DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY OF ANGOLA ON 25TH MAY 2021

**H.E AMB. Tete Antonio, Minister for External Relations, Republic of
Angola,
Excellency Ambassadors,
Ministry of External Relations Officials,
Distinguished Panelists,
Invited Guests,
Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocols Observed**

1. I extend my warm greetings and those of my colleagues from the African Group to you all. Thank you, Your Excellency, Tete Antonio, Minister for External Relations for accepting to grace this auspicious occasion commemorating the 2021 Africa Day.

Ladies and Gentlemen

2. We celebrate this year's Africa Day on the backdrop of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, economic hardship and continuing social strife across the continent. These challenges have more than ever espoused the need for Africa to look introspectively towards securing its future. To achieve the Africa we want, we must embrace the annals of our culture and heritage as a catalyst towards socio-economic development of the continent. Hence this year's theme, "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we Want".

3. We therefore welcome the coming into force in October 2020 of 'The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance' and thank Angola for being one of the countries to have ratified the Charter. It seeks to promote African identity, shared values, the spirit of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance; development of the creative economy of the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The African continent is universally recognized for its cultural and natural diversity and for the richness of its arts. Expressed through its arts, crafts, clothing, cuisine, music, and languages, the wealth of African culture is best placed to serve as a catalyst for the socio-economic development and integration of the African continent.
5. In light of the multiple challenges currently being faced by the African continent, including the impact of climate change, the various ongoing regional armed conflicts and the global COVID-19 pandemic among others, Africans must ensure that the remarkable heritage is able to adapt and thrive in today's environment and build on its strength, creativity and richness to overcome these challenges. Our resilience as a people is one of our greatest strengths.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. For instance, we could tap into the indigenous remedies in fighting illness and disease to come up with remedies against Covid-19 and other diseases afflicting our people. African governments can coalesce resource under the auspices of the African Union to promote such research. Another example is in the tourism sector, efforts should be made to make African people aware of their own arts, culture and heritage. This is critical as it will spur intra-Africa and in-country tourism hence contributing to the revival of the tourism sector. At the same time, it will ensure governments contribute to preserving and showcasing our cultural heritage.
7. At this juncture, I want to thank the Government of Angola on its initiative through the Biennale of Luanda which seeks to leverage on

African arts, culture and heritage to advance peace and sustainable development on the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen

8. As I mentioned at the beginning, we are living during challenging times occasioned by the covid-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, we commend the Government of the Republic of Angola for its efforts in managing the pandemic and ensuring the people of Angola and visitors are protected. As members of the Diplomatic Corps, we extend our gratitude to the Government for facilitating COVID-19 vaccination.
9. As I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee which included from the African Group, the Ambassadors of Kenya, Mali, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Zambia, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique and Cape Verde; as well as the team from the Ministry led by Mr. Miguel Bembe, Director for Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations.
10. I also thank, the Ministry of External Relations through the Diplomatic Academy for hosting us today, the presenters and panelists for agreeing to be part of this day and all participants present.

Ladies and Gentlemen

11. Lastly, in the spirit of African culture of friendship and solidarity, the African Group of Ambassadors wishes to respond to the clarion call by the practitioners in the telecommunications and information communication sector towards the "Abraço Solidário, Somos Angola" campaign. In this regard, we hereby contribute USD5,000 which is equivalent to AOA3,240,000.00 to the campaign.
12. May Africa's renaissance be born in its rich arts, culture and heritage.
13. I thank you and God bless you all.

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