



Shalom Chronicles

E-Newsletter of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
in Tel Aviv, Israel

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Message from H.E. the Ambassador
Lt. Gen. Samuel N. Thuita, (KAF rtd.), MGH, EBS, OGW

It is with great honour and pleasure that I present to you the 2022 edition of the Shalom Chronicles, the official e-newsletter of the Embassy of the Republic Kenya, Tel Aviv.

The e-newsletter highlights key activities and engagements of the Mission in the Financial Year 2021/2022.

Kenya-Israel relations dates back to Kenya's pre-independence in 1963. The longstanding warm and cordial relations between the two countries has continued to deepen, with strengthening of co-operation in diverse areas including, inter alia, trade and commerce; defense and security; agriculture and food security; science and technology; health; and training, research and development. Through the Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), the Israeli government has supported various programmes in agriculture, water and irrigation, health, and education in Kenya and facilitated many Kenyans for training and capacity building in Israel.

The Mission's core mandate is to promote, protect and project Kenya's interests in the State of Israel. Over the last one year, the Mission has carried out numerous activities and engagement anchored on the five pillars of the Kenya's Foreign Policy, namely: Economic diplomacy; Cultural diplomacy; Peace diplomacy; Environmental diplomacy; and Diaspora diplomacy. This e-newsletter focuses on the bilateral and diplomatic engagements and co-operations in various fields that seek to promote opportunities for investment in line with the Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda.

In executing its core mandate, the Mission endeavors to live to its vision of being an epitome of diplomatic excellences, and its mission to provide effective and efficient to our clients. I'm glad to have a very able and dedicate team of staff, without whom we will not have achieved the desired success. We are also grateful to all our partners in Israel for continued support and promise more robust engagements for the good of us all.

Toda Rabah.
Asanteni Sana.

Kenya Foreign Policy in Brief

Kenya's Foreign Policy seeks to promote and safeguard national, regional and international peace and security and protect her sovereignty and territorial integrity. As an active player in regional and global affairs, Kenya pursues a foreign policy based on key fundamental principles including peaceful co-existence, preservation of national security, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, non-alignment, and adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and African Union

The Vision driving Kenya's Foreign Policy agenda is the pursuit of "a peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya" while the Mission is "to project, promote and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful; and equitable world."

The Policy is anchored on five interlinked pillars of diplomacy namely: Peace; Economic; Diaspora; Environmental; and Cultural.

Kenya's Vision 2030 and Development Agenda

Kenya's development is anchored on the Vision 2030, the country's development blueprint. The goal of the Vision is to make Kenya a globally competitive and prosperous country, transforming it into a newly industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by the year 2030.

The Vision 2030 is anchored on three pillars, namely: Economic, Political, and Social pillars, implemented through Medium Term Plans (MTPs).

The Economic Pillar aims to achieve and sustain an average economic growth rate of 10% per annum until 2030.

The Social Pillar seeks to build a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment.

The Political Pillar aims to realize a democratic political system founded on issue-based politics that respects the rule of law, and protects the rights and freedoms of every individual in Kenyan society.

The Government of Kenya in its third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) has identified manufacturing, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, and food and nutrition security as pillars and key priority investment areas under the "Big Four" agenda.

The aim is to consolidate the significant achievements of the Economic Transformation Agenda that has been implemented since 2008 under Vision 2030. The "Big Four" agenda widens the horizon for public and private sector investment in the country.

Annual Rosh HaShanah Celebrations

In honor of Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, President Isaac Herzog and First Lady Michal Herzog hosted their first annual toast at the President's residence in Jerusalem for the foreign diplomatic corps stationed in Israel on 2nd September 2021. The reception was attended by Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Deputy Foreign Minister Idan Roll, and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Zambian Ambassador Martin Mwanambale. In attendance were around 100 Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps in Israel.



H.E. the Ambassador with President Isaac Herzog during the Rosh HaShanah Celebrations

In his speech, President Herzog thanked the foreign diplomats for their work strengthening the ties of peace and friendship between Israel and their nations. He urged for international cooperation and engagement especially in the context of the fight against climate change and called for "courageous and sometimes painful steps to mitigate this danger with a universal global approach."

Israel's 74th Independence Day Celebrations

The State of Israel celebrated its 74th Independence Day (Yom Haatzmaut) on 4th May 2022. Israel Independence Day is celebrated annually on the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, on the 5th day of the month of Iyar, according to the Hebrew calendar. The preceding day – the Memorial day - is devoted to the memory of those who gave their lives for the achievement of the country's independence and its continued existence. The Memorial day ended with its annual torch lighting ceremony on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl honoring Israelis who have contributed to society.

H.E. the Ambassador joined the invited guests to commemorate the 24, 068 fallen soldiers and 4,216 victims of terrorism.



Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Israeli Government Officials during Israel's 74th Independence day celebrations

Jamhuri Day 2021 Celebrations

The unprecedented challenges occasioned by Covid-19 made it difficult to have physical gatherings in Israel at the time when the 2021 Jamhuri day celebrations were happening. Despite these challenges, the Embassy embarked on virtual celebrations which largely involved homebased staff. H.E. the Ambassador delivered a virtual speech which was widely shared with interlocutors in Israel and beyond. In his address, the Ambassador reflected on the political, economic and social progress that Kenya had made since attainment of her independence. He praised the warm and deep relations between Kenya and Israel that dates back to 1963, noting the strategic areas of partnership between Kenya and Israel.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of Kenya as a regional economic hub and a gateway for East and Central Africa, the Ambassador invited investors to seize investment opportunities, especially in the Big Four Agenda which include food security and nutrition, universal health coverage, manufacturing, and affordable housing.

Madaraka Day 2022 Get-together

Madaraka day Get-together celebrations were held on 7th May 2022 at the official Residence of the Ambassador.

The event brought together the embassy staff and their families, the representatives of Kenyan diaspora, and Kenyan students studying in various institutions of higher learning in Israel and those in AICAT program.

This provided an opportunity to connect and celebrate Kenya's rich heritage, values and aspirations.

During the event, the Embassy staff bid farewell to Ms Shali Ngali, who had completed her tour of duty.



Homebased staff and Kenyan diaspora representatives



Homebased and local staff

Kenya-Israel 3rd Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting



Participants in the 3rd Joint Trade Committee meeting at the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry, Jerusalem.

The Kenya-Israel 3rd Joint Trade Committee meeting which was established in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement for Economic Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the State of Israel, signed on 5th July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, was held in Jerusalem on 15th and 16th May 2022.

H.E. Betty C. Maina, the Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization Trade and Enterprise Development, and her counterpart, H.E. Minister Orna Barivai, Ministry of Economy and Industry, headed the Kenyan and Israeli delegations respectively.

The two sides had a constructive discussion on various issues including bilateral trade relations; energy; urban development and smart cities; water resources management; agricultural water resources management; environment protection; health; start-up eco system cooperation; ICT, digital technologies and cyber; tourism; maritime and shipping affairs; customs; standardization; agriculture; and industrialization.



H.E. Minister Orna Barivai, Ministry of Economy and Industry, Israel, with H.E. Betty C. Maina, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Kenya, during the 3rd Joint Trade

African Union Day 2022 Celebrations

The African Union Day celebrations in Israel took place on 31st May 2022 at the official residence of the Nigerian Ambassador to Israel. The occasion focused on the AU's theme for the year 2022 "strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent: strengthening agro-food systems, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic capital development." The event brought together the African diplomatic corps, Africans living and working in Israel, Israeli government officials, diplomats and friends of Africa in Israel, among others.

The chief guest, Hon. Hamad Amar, Minister in the Israeli Ministry of Finance, delivered the key note speech, noting the burgeoning relationship between Israel and African countries. He pointed out trade & commerce, security & defense, agriculture, health, research and training, and technology as strategic areas of partnership between Israel and African countries. He further sought the support of African countries for Israel's observer status at the African Union.



On his part, the Dean of the African Group of Ambassadors in Israel, appreciated the warm relations between African countries and Israel, and called for strengthening of partnership in strategic areas of mutual interests. The Dean also thanked the State of Israel for support it provided Africa countries and Africans living during at the height of Covid-19 pandemic, specifically pointing out the Brothers–Arms–Campaign, and the provision of donation covid-19 vaccines through COVAX and PPEs to individual countries.



The Chief Guest, Hon. Hamad Amar and H.E. Amb. Samuel Thuita, at the Kenyan Embassy stand

The Blue-Talks

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in collaboration with the Embassy of Portugal in Tel Aviv hosted the Blue Talks panel discussions on 25th May 2022 at the Israel Export Institute (IEI) in Tel Aviv. The event was a build-up for the second United Nations Ocean Conference which was to take place on 27th June to 1st July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 14 on conservation and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The purpose of the Blue Talks panel was to enhance awareness, mobilize participation at the highest level and encourage voluntary contributions towards the conference.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Samuel Thuita noted that the overall aim of the Lisbon conference was to come up with a new generation of concrete, ambitious commitments and help forge new, inclusive and effective partnerships to support the implementation of SDG 14. The conference also seeks to promote voluntary commitments by promoting multi-stakeholder engagement and stronger involvement of the financial and philanthropic sector, civil society and youth.

H.E. the Ambassador also highlighted Kenya's contribution towards achievement of sustainable development goals, in particular on environmental conservation and the blue economy.

The event was graced by the Dean of the Africa Diplomatic Corps in Israel, H.E. the Ambassador of Zambia, the Ambassador of Cameroon, the Ambassador of Rwanda, European Union Ambassador to Israel, African Charge d' Affaires and their representatives. Also present were Kenyan experts who made presentations on Kenya's leadership role in the Blue Economy.



H.E. Amb. Samuel Thuita addressing participants during the Blue-Talks Panel



African Group of Ambassadors, Charge d' Affaires and key dignitaries from Israel Export Institute



Participants during the Blue Talks

The Arava Open Day 2022

The Arava Open Day, the largest agricultural show in Israel, was held on 24th February 2022 at the Central & Northern Arava, Tamar Research & Development, Yair Station. .

The exhibition attracted over 200 Israeli companies and businesses displaying modern agricultural technologies and solutions. The Kenyan students showcased their model and Kenyan cultures and performed an amazing Kenyan traditional dance. The Embassy was represented by Amb. Isaac Parashina - Deputy Head of Mission, and Mr. Brian Mwakunde, Second Secretary.



H.E. the Ambassador Visit to AICAT



On March 2nd 2022, H.E. Ambassador Samuel Thuita visited and held an interaction session with the AICAT students. During this visit, the Ambassador held an interactive session with the students. H.E. the Ambassador commented the students for keeping focus and discipline since their arrival to Israel and assured them of the Embassy's support while in Israel.

AICAT Graduation 2022

The Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT) held its graduation ceremony for the 2021/2022 cohort on 14th June 2022, in Arava, Sapir, South of Israel, where a total of 149 Kenyan students participated. Three Mission staff graced the occasion. The Kenyan students are drawn from various universities and colleges in Kenya including Kenyatta University, JKUAT, Egerton University, University of Nairobi, Maseno University, and KEWI.

AICAT provides training and impart professional, theoretical and practical knowhow and skills in advanced agricultural studies to over 1,000 students annually from various countries, including Kenya. The training is anchored on the Center's guiding principle of "Learning by Doing".



Visit to Save a Child's Heart Children Home



The Embassy staff led by H.E. Ambassador Samuel Thuita visited the children at Save a Child's Heart children home in Israel. During the visit, the H.E. the Ambassador and the Embassy staff interacted with the children and their guardians. The Ambassador thanked Save-A-Child's Heart in Israel for their continued support to needy Kenyan children who required heart treatment and wished the children and families well.

A total of sixteen (16) children in from Kenya, in two different groups, accompanied by their guardians arrived in Israel for treatment of cardiac related complications at the wolfson children hospital under the auspices of Save a Child's Heart. Based in Israel, Save a Child's Heart is a humanitarian organization that seeks to save the lives of children suffering from heart diseases in various countries, including Kenya.



International Youth Day 2021

In 1999, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendations made by the World Conference of Ministers responsible for youth (Lisbon, 8th – 12th August 1998) that 12th August be declared International Youth Day. The 2021 International Youth Day focused on *“transforming food systems: Youth Innovation for human and planetary health”*. The International Youth Day (IYD) provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the young people towards meaningful and equitable engagement through their voices, actions and initiatives.

The initiatives by the youth in the day-to-day life of the society goes to demonstrate that they are leaders of today and tomorrow since passing the baton begins with preparation. The Embassy of Kenya in Tel Aviv celebrated the International Youth Day 2021 by choosing sports activities as a demonstration to healthy and productive youth living.



Amb. Isaac Parashina, Ms. Shali Ngali, & Mr. Brian Mwakunde engaging in sports activities celebrating IYD 2021

Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Team Visit

The Embassy received the Integrated M & E team from the Ministry headquarters on 13th May 2022. The objective of the integrated team was to evaluate progress made, short falls and recommend ways to better implement the Missions core functions with a view to enhancing service delivery. The team, lead by Amb. Harriet Nduma, concluded the exercise on 18th May 2022.



Records Management Team Visit

The Embassy received the Records Management team from the Ministry headquarters and other government agencies on 18th June 2022. The objective of the records team was to appraise all non-current records, identify and request for destruction of valueless records, identify records for retention, and review file classification indexing.



Kenya Catchball Team Visit to Israel



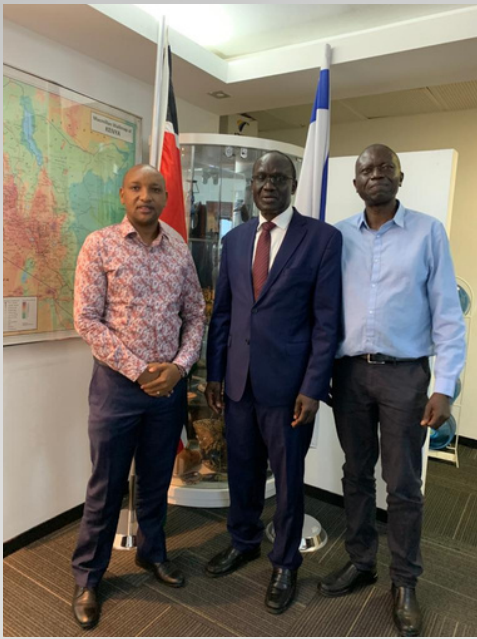
The Kenya Catchball team made its inaugural visit to Israel on 24th February and departed on 3rd March 2022. The visit, sponsored by the Kenya Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage, and was made possible by the coordination of Hila Yeshayahu.

During the one-week long visit, the team engaged in various activities sponsored by the Israeli Catchball Association. The team was deeply acquainted with catchball in Israel, including practicing and training with senior catchball coaches in Israel.

Additionally, the Kenya team were privileged to have games with diverse Israeli teams from various companies, Jewish and Arabs cities, professionals, hearing-impaired, young women and children, as well as beach games.

In one of their activities, H.E. the Ambassador visited the team and presented them with certificates and trophies. The Ambassador thanked the organizers and sponsors of the visit and noted the importance of sports in promoting cultural diplomacy and people-to-people relations between the two countries. The delegation also made a courtesy call to the Kenya Embassy in Tel Aviv before departure from Israel.



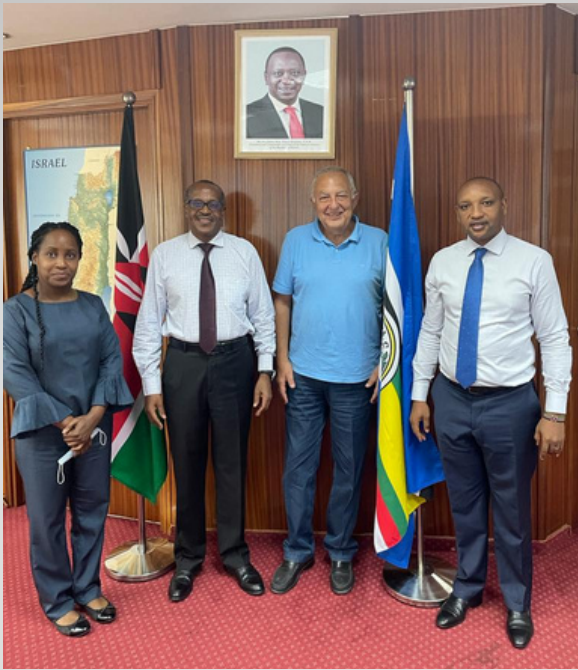


Courtesy Visit by Ambassador Lazarus Amayo, Kenyan Ambassador to Washington DC during his official visit to the State of Israel

Amb. Isaac Parashina (Deputy Head of Mission) & Mr. Kaunda Kyanganga (Immigration Attach) During Graduation of Mr. Michael Mathenge & Mr. Martin Gitonga at Hebrew University on 13th September 2021.



Courtesy call by Ms. Eti Dayan, an Israeli Entrepreneur, Researcher and Tour Guide, Based in Narok County and Author of 'One of Them' (her living story with the Maasai People in Kenya).



Meeting with Mr. Victor Politis, the Chairman Project Capital+

Meeting with Mr. Avi Ashman, Vice President, LR Group Limited to discuss investment opportunities in Kenya especially green energy and agri-technologies.



H.E. the Ambassador meeting with Kenya's Honorary Consul, Mr. Shlomo Grofman on 2nd November 2021



Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission meeting with Amb. Sharon Bar-li, Deputy Director General - African Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Jerusalem on 25th November 2021



Meeting with Ms. Dorit Banet - CEO of Keilot Company, and Partners on specialized technologies for disconnected off-grid regions focusing on developing countries



Courtesy visit by the Audit team at the Ambassador's official residence on 4th February 2022

Amb. Isaac Parashina (Deputy Head of Mission) & Mr. Ghonar Mwakunde (Second Secretary) meeting with the visiting delegation of the Agriculture & Food Authority (AFA) and key representatives of bussiness organizations in Israel



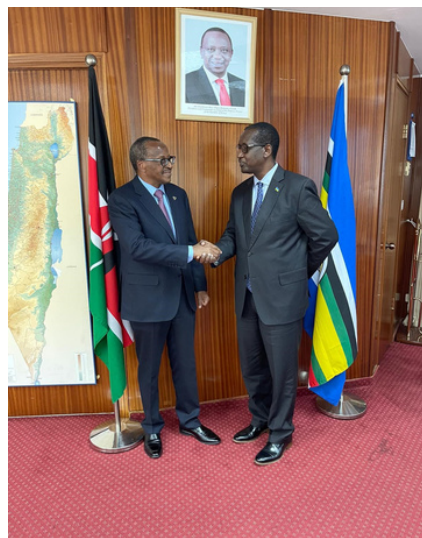
Study tour of the Ambassadors of Diplomatic Corps to the Arava Institute, South of Israel, organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10th March 2022



Closing ceremony of Kenyan who had completed various courses in the Institute 14th March 2022, among them was Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi, the Principal Secretary for Higher Education



Mr. Kaunda Kyanganga, Immigration Attache', with Ms. Erica Okeyo during her graduation ceremony at Hebrew University of Jerusalem on 23rd March 2022 . Ms Okeyo graduated with MA International Development.

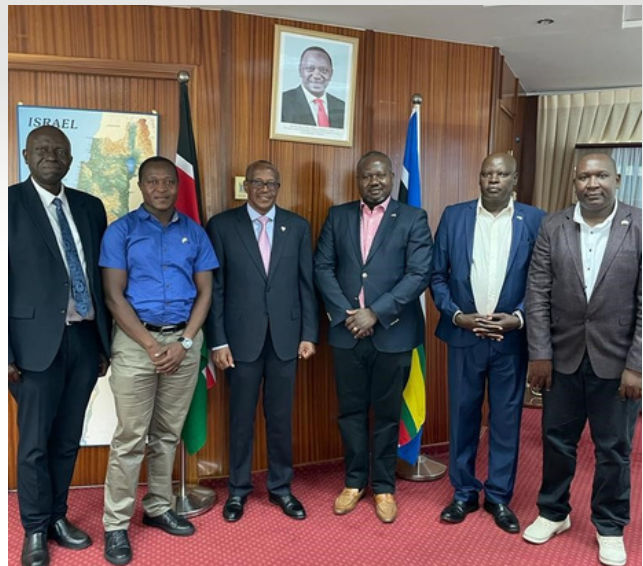


Courtesy call by Rwanda Ambassador to the State of Israel, H.E. Ambassador James Gatera on 29th March 2022



Courtesy call by Tanzanian Ambassador to the State of Israel H.E. Ambassador Alex Kallua on 29th March 2022

Courtesy call by a delegation of the Nation Social Security Fund (NSSF) & the Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) on 28th March 2022



H.E. the Ambassador with Teachers Service Commission delegation during the closing at the Ofri Education International Training Center (METC), Israel.





Mr. Brian Mwakunde, Second Secretary, with Chen Young Ambassadors during a Youth Diplomacy engagement at Krol Elementary School, Tel Aviv, on 6th April 2022



Home Based Staff meeting at the Ambassador's Official Residence on 12th April 2022

Mission staff together with Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation Team from the Ministry Headquarters led by Amb. Harriet Nduma, meeting with Mr. Charles Muhia and Ms. Nelly Shahale, the Chairperson and Secretary of Kenyan Diaspora in Israel respectively



H.E. the Ambassador interacting with the Chief Guest, Hon. Hamad Amar during the African Union Day celebrations on 31st May 2022 at the Official Residence of Nigerian Ambassador to the State of Israel



Immigration Attache', Mr. Kaunda Kyanganga, with Mr. Dotan Smith (Assisted Voluntary Return Program, Population and Immigration Authority of Israel) & Spouse during the African Union Day celebrations on 31st May 2022



H.E. the Ambassador bidding farewell to Ms Shali Ngali



Homebased staff and Kenyan AICAT students during the Madaraka Day 2022 Get-together



Mr. Alex Okitoi, Minister Counsellor with staff Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), on official engagement on 8th June 2022



Welcome to Kenya
The land of opportunities

