

**MASHUJAA DAY MESSAGE BY AMB. (DR) CLEOPA MAILU, EGH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN
GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND,
20TH OCTOBER 2021**

Today, I join H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, in wishing you all a happy Mashujaa Day, filled with joy, good health and prosperity.

On this day, we honour all those known, and unsung Kenyans, who contributed to the struggle for the independence of our nation. These were courageous men and women who fought, bled, and died so that today we can live our lives as free citizens. These distinguished men and women gathered the will power and stood up for the sake of the independence and sovereignty of our beloved country. Their bravery and courage for our home, nation, justice, and freedom were the precursors to the momentum for self-rule, a noble status that we enjoy to date. They, therefore, deserve to be remembered and honoured befittingly.

As we celebrate our mashujaa, let us also take time to reflect on their aspirations and vision for our nation. The relentless fight for freedom and independence was for a purpose – to put an end to colonialism and to build an ideal nation together as Kenyans, for the present and future generations. They aspired for a well-educated, healthy, and economically prosperous Kenya. They looked forward to a socially cohesive, peaceful, and politically stable nation where everyone's voice counted. Let us, therefore, honour our mashujaa by perpetuating their aspirations and ideals as we endeavour to move our beloved country to the next level.

Even as we honour our founding fathers, the freedom fighters, and all those who preceded us in the making of the Republic of Kenya, we acknowledge and recognize the existing heroes and heroines, who have surmounted hurdles to ensure that our country remains steadfast on the path to prosperity. Under the able stewardship of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, we continue to forge ahead with the BIG FOUR Agenda of: keeping our nation healthy by ensuring universal health care; enhancing manufacturing to create more entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for our youth; ensuring food security by investing in our farmers and agricultural value chains; and delivering affordable homes across the country.

We also take pride in, and acknowledge the contributions by many Kenyans such as the frontline workers who have risked their lives to fight COVID-19, a pandemic that has ravaged humanity across the globe; the teachers who have continued to play their honourable role of instilling knowledge and skills to our children despite the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the pandemic; the innovators who have put the country on the world map with their tech-solutions to our contemporary and foreseen challenges; our agile sports men and women, who continue to fly Kenya's flag high; and above all, the Diaspora who continue to support our beloved country financially, as well as with skills and expertise.

Let us all to play our respective roles for the greater good of our motherland. As a Mission, we have and shall continue to fervently represent Kenya at the UN and the Multilateral system where we will zealously protect and advance the interests of our beloved country.

***Happy Mashujaa Day
God Bless Kenya***