

2021 JAMHURI DAY MESSAGE BY AMB. (DR) CLEOPA MAILU, EGH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND, 12TH DECEMBER 2021

Today, 12th December 2021, we celebrate the 58th Jamhuri (independence) day of our beloved country, Kenya. I wish to join H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, in wishing all Kenyans, friends of Kenya and people of goodwill, good health and prosperity, despite the devastating impact of the COVID-19 to our economic and social well-being.

This year again, due to the deteriorating epidemiological situation in Switzerland, and Europe in general, the Mission will skip the practice of holding a reception to commemorate this important national day. This is also in compliance with the guidelines and protocols imposed by the Swiss authorities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We all have been affected directly or otherwise by the pandemic. We have lost loved ones and many have lost their sources of livelihoods. While many have recovered from the virus, they have had to adjust to the long-term post-recovery effects. We have also been compelled to adapt to the new normal of confinements and working remotely.

In all these, we are still grateful for yet another opportunity to commemorate 58 years since Kenya gained her independence.

While on this occasion we celebrate and remember the struggles of those who fought for our freedom, we ought to take inspiration from the fathers of the nation, who sacrificed their lives for us to enjoy the freedom that we have today. We, therefore, celebrate them all for laying the formidable foundation stones of our nation. As we look back and acknowledge this precious gift from our forefathers, let us also work harder to build a better future for our children and generations to come. In this regard, we commend all those Kenyans who continue to make extraordinary contributions to bring our nation closer to her destiny of being a better, more just, more equitable, and more prosperous nation for all. Indeed, we have an obligation to bequeath our children a peaceful, rich, and resourceful country that they will be proud to live in.

Despite the challenges that we have encountered for the last 58 years, we have also made considerable milestones as a country. Jamhuri Day is therefore, an auspicious opportunity to take stock of these milestones, even as we contemplate the hurdles and difficulties that we have faced as a country and seek ways to collectively address them. We will always count on you as our key stakeholders as we strive for a brighter future.

**ASANTENI SANA
HAPPY JAMHURI DAY AND HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON!
GOD BLESS KENYA.**

12 December 2021