



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A 3-DAY KENYA DIASPORA HOMECOMING CONVENTION-CUM-AFRICAN DIASPORA SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY THE KENYA DIASPORA ALLIANCE, DIASPORA INVESTMENT CLUB, AND OTHER PARTNERS FROM DECEMBER 17-19, 2019, AT THE OLE SERENI HOTEL, NAIROBI

INTRODUCTION

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) a federation of 42 Kenya Diaspora Associations with a nominal membership of over 250,000 Kenyans living abroad held a 3-day Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention-cum-African Diaspora Symposium from December 17-19, 2019. The theme of the Convention was ***Diaspora & the Big 4 Agenda***. It was aimed at offering a platform to facilitate consultative, immersive interaction between the diaspora and other stakeholders, and create awareness on investment opportunities (both at national and county levels), in line with government plans and policies. The meeting helped to identify ways to engage, enable and empower the diaspora, crafted recommendations for diaspora-related policies, research and operations, and created networks among the delegates, government, development partners and the private sector.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and ASALS was the Chief Guest. Key Speakers at the Convention included, the Hon. Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health, H.E. Wajir County Governor, Principal Secretary Housing, Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) CEO, Industrialist Dr. Manu Chandaria, Excellencies Ambassador of Denmark, High Commissioner of Zambia and Honorary Consul of Estonia, UN Resident Representative, FAO Kenya Representative, President & CEO African Renaissance and Diaspora Network Inc. (ARDN, New York), President African Diaspora Business Roundtable (Washington DC), CEO of Jumuiya ya Pwani, eminent Captains of Industry including CEO Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Chairperson & CEO Kenya Health Federation (KHF), President & CEO Kenya Medical Association, Chief of Party, AVCD/ILRI, Vice Chancellors/Leaders of Cooperative, Daystar and Strathmore Universities, CEOs of strategic state corporations among them CA, Konza Metropolis, NHC, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), NDMA, KenTrade, KEPROBA, KNH, Deputy Director of Youth, Office of the President, CEOs of leading corporates from health, finance, insurance, remittance and real-estate sectors, among them Liberty Life, Optiven, Dahabshiil, Credit Bank, Standard Investment Bank (SIB), GeoNet Communications, PharmAccess, Faraja Centre, Safaricom Investment Cooperative, Goshen Acquisitions, Wealth Smith, Taj Money Transfer, and

about 40 exhibitors. There were also eminent diaspora leaders from literally all the continents of the world. In all, there were about 800 participants and delegates from over 50 different countries that had representation from the Business community, Government Agencies and Academia, as well as Business representatives from the African American community and other “historical” Diasporas.

SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE LAST CONVENTION:-

- Annual diaspora remittances grew from US\$ 2.6b to \$2.9b in a year
- High-level government and general public awareness and consciousness raised to the extent recognition at highest levels and nomination of a dual citizen as Ambassador
- Improved policy environment for the creatives/film industry, and successful hosting of first 5-week International Film Festival ‘Cinemademare’ in Kenya/Africa that covered 5 counties
- Unveiling of the Kenya Diaspora Experts Database and ***TheDiasporaPortal.com***
- Constitution of 3 Diasporic Task Teams:- **Health** (with KHF, KMA, World Bank Africa Health Initiative, etc), **Water** (with Cooperative University/CUK, World Bank Kenya, UNESCO, etc), and **Rural Youth-in-Agribusiness Cooperatives** (advanced consultations with FAO Kenya, Italian Embassy and Kiambu County).

OUTCOMES OF KDHC-2019

The outcomes of the Convention will inform the Diaspora engagement with Government, Development Partners and the Private Sector, in order to chart a favorable legal regulatory and policy environment for Diaspora investments, savings and skills transfer.

In the course of deliberations, participants at the Convention noted the following:

1. There exists numerous opportunities in all the Big 4 Agenda pillars and the Kenya/African Diaspora can structure and execute those jointly with the Government and the Private sector in Public Private People’s Partnership (PPPP) arrangements.
2. There are numerous investment opportunities within the Regional Economic Blocs, as well as the County Investment Programs to engage diaspora to enable impact in counties.
3. Diaspora being the single largest forex earner ought now to be considered the **48th County**. Remittances have steadily grown since 2013 (1.3 billion US dollars) to close to 3 Billion US Dollars in 2019.
4. There is need for Diaspora intellectual capital to be used to develop the whole Agriculture, Health, Manufacturing and Housing value chains, which combined, are worth multi-million dollar industries.
5. Kenya now has a Diaspora Policy in place and the Government is determined to draw the Diaspora from the periphery of Kenya’s

development to the Centre in terms of economic growth and transformation.

6. The Diaspora can, by virtue of their skills, expertise, economic power, diplomacy and business networks, lead in the promotion of quality primary health services delivery through developing synergies between several structures of governments at all levels, and a broad array of non-state actors including professionals, trade unions, NGOs, other CSOs and community-based associations.

In light of the observations made by participants the following Resolutions were arrived at:

1. A new target was set to double remittances to **US\$ 5 billion** and increase the percentage to investments and hard savings from the current **25%** to **30%** by end of 2022 through incentives and regulated instruments like Diaspora Green Bond, Diaspora Unit Trust, and through better data analytics and management, including impactrics – measure of the remittances’ impact. This would require at a minimum extending the incentives for FDI to diaspora investors. Participants opined that domestic and diaspora investors too should get the same if not better incentives presently reserved to FD investors.
2. Kenya Diaspora Alliance working with other African Diaspora formations will jointly constitute an **African Diaspora Alliance**, to tap into the immense economic, social and cultural benefits for poverty reduction, reconstruction and growth of countries of origin and domicile. An **African Diaspora Youth Council** too embracing all the AU regions shall be constituted to walk the talk of including youth in developing our future.
3. Kenya Diaspora Alliance and like-minded African diaspora formations will work with African Americans and Chambers of Commerce in the US to create bridges for investments and facilitate access to the available investment Funds set up by the US Government.
4. Kenya Diaspora Alliance through the youth arm - Diaspora Youth Organization (DYO) will provide investment opportunities for investment for youth, access to funds and mentorship to incubate and accelerate their business ideas for economic development.
5. Kenya Diaspora Alliance leveraging on the Diaspora experts will work with the Ministry of Health and County governments to deepen affordable healthcare and encourage communication with all health sector stakeholders by plugging in as corporate entities, develop preventive and promote measures for good public health by technology and skills transfer to plug into developing a robust ecosystem with ICT and Sanitation. Community ownership of Universal Health Coverage provision to ensure political ownership and input by the Diaspora to healthcare in Kenya to be encouraged.
6. Kenya Diaspora Alliance will engage with the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) team, Parliament and the Dialogue Contact Group (DCG) to ensure Diaspora matters and areas of interest are entrenched and appropriately anchored in the Constitution.

7. Kenya Diaspora Alliance working with investment experts will develop investment vehicles through which the Diaspora can invest in the opportunities existing in the Country in the Big 4 pillars.
8. Kenya Diaspora Alliance will facilitate the engagement with Maritime industry and leverage investors locally to support the Blue Economy, Creative Industry, Environmental Management, IT-enabled Services and other industries for trade and development.
9. Diaspora will support ICT development including digitization of jobs, connections with investors, business-to-business (B2B) mediation, e-learning, exchange visits, partnering in SME development using digital platforms across sectors and industries.
10. Kenya Diaspora Alliance will work with Diaspora partners to change Kenyans' mindset that agriculture is 'subsistence' to it being viewed as best means of wealth creation and mobilization of human labour and boost food security, agribusiness and agro-processing. This will involve the deliberate and methodological examination of all value chains to add value and boost production.
11. Kenya Diaspora Alliance working with the Ministry of Health, Kisumu County Government, Chandaria Foundation, Kenya Health Federation, Kenya Medical Association and other key actors in the sector – private and public, as well as other diasporas and well-wishers to hasten establishment of the Kisumu Cancer Centre, to be followed by Wajir Cancer Centre. The Consortium shall strive to establish in total 4-5 Cancer Treatment Centres in different parts of the Country. Donor Roundtables for identified County Governments shall be held in the New Year, beginning with Wajir County.
12. In course of the next 2 years, the Kenya Diaspora Alliance shall evolve a framework, transparent, fair and objective mechanism to identify a few outstanding institutions, including commercial enterprises and missions to be declared 'Companies of Choice' in given sectors, as well as 'Missions of the Year' from diaspora lenses.

The date for 2020 Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention-cum-African Diaspora Symposium will be **8th-10th December, 2020** and the theme shall be: **African Diaspora and Wealth Creation through Investment and Trade.**

DATED THIS 23RD DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019



DR. SHEM OCHUODHO

GLOBAL CHAIR – KENYA DIASPORA ALLIANCE