

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDRICK MATWANG'A DURING THE OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (DESIGNATE) OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO HIS EXCELLENCY NIKOS CHRISTODOULIDES, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS ON 16TH DECEMBER 2024.

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

1. It is with great honour and humility that I present to you the letters of credence from **His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto** President of the Republic of Kenya, accrediting me as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of Cyprus with residence in Rome. I herewith also present the letter of recall of my predecessor Ambassador Jackline Lumumba Yonga.
2. With utmost pleasure, allow me to convey to you the warm greetings and best wishes of **His Excellency, President William Ruto**, and the people of Kenya, to **Your Excellency Mr. President** and the People of Cyprus.
3. I am deeply honoured to serve as Kenya's High Commissioner to Cyprus. I will endeavour to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. The relationship between Kenya and Cyprus is one of mutual respect, shared values, and a common commitment to peace, development, and the advancement of the well-being of our people. We share important interests in areas such as trade, investment, education, tourism, and the fight against climate change.
4. For instance, I will work with your officials to actualise political consultations in the areas of trade and investment, tourism, maritime

affairs and blue economy, agriculture, education, humanitarian assistance, renewable energy, among others. These consultations will no doubt form a strong foundation for future cooperation for the benefit of our peoples.

5. I also look forward to working closely with the Government of Cyprus to address global issues, including sustainable development, regional security, and multilateral diplomacy, where our two countries share common goals. Kenya believes in multilateralism. We hold the view that multilateral institutions are important for creating a rule-based global community and in ensuring that international peace, security and development.
6. With Cyprus as member of the European Union and Kenya a member of the African Union, there is opportunity to promote collaboration within the framework of the EU/Africa Strategic Partnership Agreement. The fact that both Kenya and Cyprus are members of the United Nations provides immense opportunities for our multilateral cooperation and collaboration.
7. **Your Excellency**, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hospitality and friendship that Cyprus has always extended to Kenya and to reaffirm Kenya's commitment to fostering a closer and more dynamic partnership between our peoples.
8. Thank you once again, **Your Excellency**, for this opportunity. I am confident that under your leadership and that of President William Ruto, our bilateral relations will continue to flourish and reach new heights.

Thank you and God Bless our two countries and Peoples.