



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

**REMARKS BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH,  
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
FOR FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**76<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

**SUNDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

---

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Namgya Khampa**

**Cabinet Secretaries and Senior Government Officials**

**H.E. Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps**

**H.E. Madam Zainab Bangura, Undersecretary General and Head of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.**

**Members of the Diplomatic Corps**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good evening, Namaste, Hamjambo!**

1. It is an honour to join you this evening to celebrate India's **76th Republic Day** a day that marks the **enduring spirit of a great democracy and civilization.**
2. India and Kenya share a bond that is as rich and invigorating as *chai*, steeped in history and culture. **Did you know that in 1498, Vasco da Gama, en route to India, first anchored in Malindi?** In many ways, Kenya was the bridge that connected the world to India.
3. Following Kenya's independence in December 1963, the Government of India established a resident mission in Nairobi and a Consulate in Mombasa. The Kenya Government also established a resident mission in New Delhi in 1969. These missions are the foundations of the enduring friendship that Kenyans and Indians enjoy today.
4. **India is one of Kenya's leading development partners.** Its public and private investments have supported our priority sectors including health, manufacturing education, finance, environment, security,

Information and Communication Technology, agriculture and food security.

5. The Government of India has also stood by Kenya during times of emergencies. It provided **humanitarian assistance** supplies, including relief food, medical supplies and equipment, **to the victims of floods in Kenya in May last year.**
6. Today, this bridge is stronger than ever. Between the **4th and 6th of December 2023, His Excellency President Dr. William Samoei Ruto visited India, where he held fruitful discussions with His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi.** These engagements reaffirmed the deep friendship between our nations, one that spans decades and opens new avenues for collaboration.
7. **India is Kenya's third-largest source of imports** but our relationship is far more than economic it is deeply personal. **Indian-inspired chapati, samosas, and biryani are staples in Kenyan households.** And as for *chai*, we Kenyans have made it our own. But let me add, that India has not just exported flavours; it has shared its spirit of creativity and innovation, which resonate deeply with Kenya's journey.
8. I am delighted to highlight one significant development in our partnership: **Kenya has welcomed the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) to establish its East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi.** This move is a testament to the confidence India has in Kenya as a regional financial hub. On May 31, 2024, I was honoured to inaugurate this office, a milestone that underscores Nairobi's status as the gateway for trade and investment in East Africa and beyond. Exim Bank has already supported key sectors in Kenya, including energy, textiles, and agriculture, aligning with our national development priorities.
9. Our nations also share a history of liberation. **Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence inspired Kenya's freedom fighters, including Mzee Jomo Kenyatta,** as we pursued independence from colonial rule. This

shared legacy reminds us that our bonds are built on more than trade; they are built on shared ideals of freedom and progress.

10. On the multilateral front, Kenya and India continue to work closely in **areas of common interest including peace, security and financing for sustainable development** whilst harnessing and amplifying the voices of the Global South.
11. **Both our nations call for reforms** of the United Nations Security Council, International financial architecture, climate change mitigation, and strengthening of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), and UN-Habitat
12. As we commemorate this day, let us celebrate not just the achievements of India but also the **strength of our enduring friendship**. Together, we embody a relationship that is balanced, deeply rooted, and full of promise an economic and cultural yoga pose, if you will.
13. On my own behalf and that of the people of Kenya, I convey my **warm congratulations to Her Excellency the High Commissioner and to the people of India**.

**May I now invite you all to be upstanding and join me in a toast to the good health and long life of Her Excellency President Droupadi Murmu and His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and to the continuous warm and cordial relations between Kenya and India.**

**H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH  
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
FOR FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**