

OAU/AU

50TH

ANNIVERSARY

“Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance”.



COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU-AU IN NAIROBI KENYA.

The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Nairobi, Kenya in conjunction with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized an exhibition and get-together, in the form of a lunch hour cocktail, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU-AU, on Saturday, 25th of May 2013. The event was organized in the spirit of letting the Member States take charge of the event, with AU-IBAR providing the necessary backup. The occasion was graced by His Excellency, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. William Samoei Arap Ruto.



PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT

Preparations for the event started in April 2013, when AU-IBAR was approached by the ADC in Nairobi to host the event. A technical Planning Committee, consisting of representatives of African Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Republic of Kenya and selected officers from AU-IBAR, was constituted. The Technical Planning Committee and the Bureau of the ADC held several meetings aimed at planning the event. AU-IBAR, in addition to participating in the overall coordination of preparations and supporting communications, was given the responsibility of ensuring adequate security and protocol arrangements.

Each of the 25 missions of the ADC, as well as AU-IBAR, made contributions to the event, to which some 400 guests were invited. The guests included dignitaries of the host country, heads of non-African Diplomatic Missions in Nairobi, heads and representatives international organisations, staff from the African Diplomatic Missions in Kenya and representatives of civil society organisations, representatives of the African business community in Kenya and AU-IBAR partners.

The programme included two main events: an exhibition by 16 Member States and AU-IBAR and the main event in the form of a cocktail.



AU-IBAR HOSTS THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU / AU

On 25 May AU-IBAR hosted the celebrations of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) / African Union (AU). The theme of the commemoration was **“Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance”**.

As guests were arriving, entertainment was provided by Nigerian and Burundian cultural groups. The guests were also given the opportunity to visit the 16 stands of AU Member States, where traditional local dishes and beverages were served and national clothes and artefacts displayed. AU-IBAR also hosted a stand with a display of publications and information about its current projects.

The day’s programme was opened with the AU anthem, after which the Programme Director, Ambassador Martin Kimani, informed the guests about the day’s events.



The Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Ambassador Kelebert Nkomani, provided the welcome remarks, thanking the Director of AU-IBAR for availing the AU-IBAR premises for the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

A message was delivered by Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy, the Director of AU-IBAR and representative of the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. Prof El-Sawalhy reiterated that Pan-Africanism over the years has inspired Africans and peoples of African descent in their struggles against slavery, colonialism, oppression and apartheid and that the Pan-African values of solidarity, unity, self-reliance and commitment to freedom and liberation have triumphed, this day also being the celebration of a free continent.

Another message was delivered by the African Union Chairperson representative and Ethiopian Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Ambassador Shemsudin Ahmed Roble, who emphasised that today Africa is fully liberated from colonialism and apartheid and ready and willing to determine its own destiny.

The messages were followed by a performance of a children's group and the introduction of the chief guest by the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Ambassador Kelebert Nkomani.



The final speech was delivered by the chief guest, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Honourable William Ruto, who expressed the view that Africa has massive internal trade potential that to date has remained unexploited, as well as Africa's wealth in terms of natural resources. He furthermore reminded the audience of the pledge made by Kwame Nkrumah 50 years ago, that there is no time to waste and that Africa must unite now. Mr Ruto observed that this objective is still relevant today and thanked the audience for their presence and attention and wished them a pleasant stay in Kenya.

After this speech, the 50th Anniversary cake was cut by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Honourable William Ruto and the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Ambassador Kelebert Nkomani, after which a vote of thanks was delivered by the Deputy Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Abdelilah Benryane.

Refreshments were served and entertainment provided by the group Afrizo. Guests then departed at their leisure.

The day's events were recorded by various prominent Kenyan TV stations such as Nation TV, Citizen TV and K24. They all broadcasted the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary celebrations prime-time the same evening.





Arrival of the chief guest, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Honourable William Ruto



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Honourable William Ruto signs the AU-IBAR Guest Book



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Honourable William Ruto visiting the Member States' exhibition stands









OAU/AU



50TH ANNIVERSARY

AU-IBAR wishes to congratulate the current African Union Commission and all previous OAU / AU Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, through the sitting Chairperson, **H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma** and Deputy Chairperson, **H. E. Erastus Mwencha**, on the **50th Anniversary of the OAU / AU**.

