

Nov. 2nd 2005 NEWS RELEASE

By

Bishop Dr. Douglas Muchiri
President, All Saints Church Alliance - USA**Kenya's Image in the US**

Rarely does the council of Bishops speak. However this time, we speak, not as denominational representatives, but as the All Saints Church Alliance (ASCA) composed of over 250 Pastors and Bishops representing Churches and Christians in over 30 states in the USA. In our inauguration ceremony this summer we brought together over 2,500 Kenyans from the continental US for a convention in Delaware. Six Bishops traveled from Kenya to grace the meeting in which the Ambassador of Kenya also represented our government.

Kenya's image in the US and abroad is highly respected. It is critical to maintain this image as a showcase. Kenyans in the US are pleased with the democratic process that was ushered in through a peaceful transition in 2003. It is in this respect that President Bush invited President Kibaki for a state visit in the US.

The fact that Kenya is going through a constitutional referendum is in itself a positive indicator of the high level of democracy in Kenya. And for this reason the whole world is monitoring closely how Kenya conducts herself. Needless to say, many nations of power are also anxiously observing the Kenyans lead to see if democracy really works in Africa so that they can invest in Kenya.

Currently two issues seem to attempt to undermine this shining picture of our beloved country. Firstly we abhor the current violence in Kisumu and hope that this will not recur elsewhere in the country. Violence and death will never solve any problems. Our prayer is that peace and tranquility will be restored without further bloodshed.

The second concern is the issue of accusations of immorality against Ambassador Leonard Ngaithe. We appreciate the position the government took to investigate the matter in depth. We have now learned that the accusations have not been substantiated and that the complainant dropped the matter.

Mr. Ngaithe is highly respected and greatly esteemed both by Kenyans and Americans in the US. He has reached out to Kenyans across continental US in an effort to galvanize solidarity and unity. Just recently, he established a caucus office in the US Congress in Washington DC to foster and enhance Kenyan interests. The caucus will boost mutual understanding, collaboration and investment. This is a great achievement for Kenyans back home and in America.

It is the former US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who asked the question "where are the Kenyans in America?" Mr. Ngaithe has spearheaded efforts to showcase the Kenyans. He understands the US dynamics and is working with the system to further the cause of Kenya and Kenyans.

It is our humble request that Mr. Ngaithe be released to come back to his office in Washington DC to continue the good work that he has started.

Respectively Submitted by
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