



Australian High Commission  
Kenya

**Australia Awards – Welcome Home Function**  
**18 March 2015**

**Talking Points- Anna Dorney, Development Counsellor,  
Australian High Commission, Nairobi**

**Acknowledgements:**

- Distinguished guests and alumni;
- Good morning and a very warm welcome to you all
- On behalf of the Australian Government, I wish to congratulate you on successfully completing your studies and welcome you to the next phase of your Award as you become an Australia Awards alumna/alumnus
- I believe we have 30 out of the 33 recently returned awardees here today.
  - It's an impressive group, and I' am very proud of the contribution Australia has made to your professional development.
  - Some like Evelyn Langat, Romana Mbinya and Naomi Rono also received the leadership awards in addition to the Masters award in recognition of their leadership potential.
- You join over 5000 alumni across the continent who are a key pillar and testament of the deepening partnership between Australia and the countries of Africa.
- The Australian Government supports a growing alumni network of highly talented, motivated and qualified professionals like you who are well positioned to further contribute to Africa's development. Through putting into practice the specialised knowledge and leadership skills developed during their studies, Australia Awards alumni are effecting positive change and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in their home countries.
- The Australian Government wants to remain actively engaged with Australia Awards alumni and to enable alumni to build and maintain relationships through professional and social links. To achieve this, the Australian Government has several activities specially designed for Australia Awards alumni to support their professional and personal development. These include a Small Grants Scheme to support alumni in carrying out activities with a development purpose; professional development opportunities; engagement of alumni in Australia Awards operations such as pre-departure briefings and interview panels; opportunities for ongoing engagement and connections with the Australian Government; and support to the establishment of local alumni networks.
- I strongly encourage you to update your contact details with the Australian Government to ensure you receive invitations and information on these opportunities and to join the growing and prestigious world-wide network of

Australia Awards alumni. For further information about opportunities available to Australia Awards alumni and to update your details on the Australia Awards alumni database, please refer to the website [www.adsafrica.com.au](http://www.adsafrica.com.au). I also encourage you to send us testimonies of your study experience or examples of how you are using your new knowledge and skills. You can send your testimonies to [alumni@adsafrica.org](mailto:alumni@adsafrica.org).

- Congratulations again on your accomplishment. I encourage you to stay connected and to keep us abreast of the changes and development contributions you are making in your home country.