



Australian High Commission
Kenya

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to present to Your Excellency the Letter of Recall of my Predecessor and my Credentials by which His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove AC MC has appointed me to be the next High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Republic of Kenya.

Allow me Your Excellency to present the compliments of my Government and the people of Australia to you personally and through you to the people of Kenya.

At the outset, allow me to offer the condolences of the Australian Government and Australian people for the appalling attack at Garissa. All terrorism is to be utterly condemned. That the young were targeted in this attack is especially monstrous and reveals the group responsible for what it is.

My Government deeply appreciated Ambassador Amina Mohamed's phone call expressing Kenya's condolences in the aftermath of the cafe siege in Sydney late last year. This incident brought home to Australia in a small way the anguish that Kenya experiences all too often. We mourn with you the many victims of terrorism on Kenyan soil.

Australia acknowledges Kenya's substantial contribution to addressing regional security challenges in Somalia, South Sudan and the DRC. I pay particular tribute to Kenya's substantial contribution to the difficult and dangerous fight against Al Shabaab in Somalia. We honour the Kenyan soldiers who have bravely given their lives in defence of Kenya and its values.

We appreciate the heavy burden Kenya faces as a consequence of this difficult environment, acknowledging in particular your hosting of large numbers of refugees. Australia has been pleased to support UNHCR and AMISOM in addressing these challenges.

Our bilateral relationship is underpinned by common values and interests: democracy and freedom; the right of our peoples to live free from the pernicious threat of terrorism and violence; the sanctity of family; fairness and compassion, perseverance against adversity. These are qualities that our peoples share.

We share Commonwealth and Indian Ocean Rim Association membership and hope to work even more closely with Kenya in both.

We congratulate Kenya on the progress you have made in implementing devolution. We have been pleased to provide support to this process. We acknowledge with envy the robustness of the Kenyan economy.

I welcome the growing ties between our countries. Around 1,500 Kenyan students are now studying in Australia, including many on Australian Government scholarships. The Australian International Food Security Centre based in Nairobi is making good progress. Commercial and mining links are growing, with Base Titanium in Mombasa having the potential to contribute over \$200 million to Kenya's economy in taxes and royalties.

We are keen to strengthen further cooperation with Kenya in the commercial sector, particularly in mining, agriculture, infrastructure and education.

We also wish to deepen cooperation on shared security challenges, particularly in the maritime domain, and through the Indian Ocean Rim Association. We value the cooperation we enjoy with your security agencies and the Kenya Defence Force.

Your Excellency, I look forward to working with your government to deepen the ties between our countries.