

A Toast by His Excellency Baraka Luvanda At the Occasion of  
The ADC Group Sayonara Dinner For The Parting  
Ambassadors of Mozambique and Nigeria on November 1st,  
2023, (730 words)

**Jambo! A Very Good Evening to Everyone! Mina-san  
Konbanwa!**

**Dear Colleagues,** I believe you all remember well how the bullet lodged in President Franklin Roosevelt's chest only after hitting both his steel eyeglass case and a 50-page copy of his speech titled "Progressive Cause Greater Than Any Individual," which his jacket was carrying in his pocket.

So, colleagues here I am carrying with me a 50-page toast speech. Please bear with me for my longwindedness.

There comes during human life days, events, and occasions so profound as to render our lexis inadequate, leaving our power of speech seriously restrained. Today, and this present occasion, is such a day and such an event.

I believe I speak for everyone here that we meet here today with mixed emotions: It is a sad moment and a happy moment too.

We are sad because we have these two friends and colleagues-  
His Excellency Ambassador Jose Maria da Silva Vieira de

Morais and His Excellency Ambassador Abubakar Moriki HUSSAINI, well rounded and seasoned diplomats are about to quit this Group.

How sad we are! Their immense and significant contributions in enhancing the visibility here in Japan and in the region shall be remembered.

But we are equally happy that you/they are only changing their duty station, having accomplished their mission here, with flying colors!

And for this, on behalf of the Group I wish to congratulate you/them profoundly.

It is good for the two of you to have spent some time here so successfully and, in a somehow a few challenging environments such as the extreme weathers, i.e., the hottest and coldest temperatures the earthquakes, the tsunamis, the trial missiles from the neighborhood, *etc.*

But more so, you needed a change, for real.

All that I should and must wish you/them is the best of luck in your/their next duty stations. You/they will certainly be missed by us all, but we would be happy to host you once you/they decide to visit with us in future.

Your/their service in this Group is highly appreciated and shall be remembered.

I believe no one in this Group will forget how Ambassador Moriki as Vice Chair of TICAD Committee and the then Chairman of the Committee H.E. Elloumi took us through the preparatory work in the run up to TICAD 8.

And for you Ambassador Morais you leave behind a work in the way you have contributed constructively in this Group as one of the Friends of the Dean as well as the Dean of the ADC Subgroup – (SADC).

Dear Friends, it has been said that whoever looks for a friend without fault will have none, meaning there is nobody on this planet who is perfect.

The two of you have been friends to many of us both for short and longer periods.

And it is true or rather natural that you/they may, at times/oftentimes, have fallen short of the expectations of some colleagues in your/their day-to-day interaction at work. Do not regret that.

And please rest assured that human nature provides room for forgiveness. And please forgive us for our shortcomings during our interactions with both of you for all the time we have been together. We will only keep with us all the fond memories of you.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen; I would like to end by quoting Charles Dickens, (quote): “ The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again’, end of quote;

As I said at the beginning, we are very sad that our dear friends are parting, but we take great solace in the fact that we will meet them in the not distant future, *Inshallah*.

Let us all raise our glasses to Your/Their Excellencies Morais and Moriki as we offer our earnest congratulations upon their/your successful stint in Japan.

I. May your/their future endeavours be as successful and fulfilling as your time in Japan;

II. May the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our countries continue to flourish.

III. May we wish you as we say in Swahili language “*Maisha Marefu*” i.e. long life?

For you and your loved ones wherever they accompany you.

Cheers! Kanpai! Maisha Marefu!

Thank you Very Much.

Domo Arigato Gozaimashta.

Asanteni Sana.