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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March. 7, 2013

Amb. Jean N. Kamau to Visit Hopewell Valley Schools and Jersey City, New Jersey



Amb. Jean Njeri Kamau, Charge d'Affaires a.i. at the Kenya Embassy in Washington D.C., will visit Hopewell Valley Central High School from 21 - 23 March 2014 as part of the ongoing relationship between Kenya and the High School.

During her visit, she will speak at a symposium for students on diplomacy, education, health and the economy of Kenya. She will also visit Bear Tavern Elementary School's International Day, which will highlight Kenya as one of five nations of study, and she will attend a reception on Friday afternoon at Capital Health

Medical Center–Hopewell, where she will meet with local community leaders. The reception is open to the public by RSVP to HVMA@hopewelltp.org.

On Saturday, Ambassador Kamau will tour Princeton University and learn about their Princeton in Africa Program. She will also meet with Hopewell students who are part of the Model World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Connections-Kenya student clubs. In the evening, she will attend a conference with members of the Kenyan community in Jersey City, N.J, where she is expected to discuss ways in which the Kenyan in the diaspora can work closely with the Embassy for the good of all Kenyans here in the United States and in the homeland. During the event several Kenyans in Academia and business will be recognized for their successes. The event starts at 5:30 PM at Muungano Hall located at 1799 J.F.Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305. Members of the public are asked to RSVP if interested to attend, as space is limited. You may RSVP by sending an email to: gckenyallc@gmail.com.

Ambassador Kamau’s visit is the culmination of a long-standing relationship between Hopewell Valley and villages in Kenyan. In 2007, Hopewell Valley biology teacher, Mr. David Angwenyi, who grew up in the Keroka area, and Dr. Lillian Rankel, a Pennington resident, led the first Model WHO student trip to Kenya. The school has since visited the area on service trips three more times, and a group of students and staff will travel there again this summer.

In 2008, participants of the first trip started a non-profit called the Hopewell-Keroka Alliance, which has raised more than \$100,000 for projects in the impoverished area. Those projects, often accomplished with the aid of Hopewell students, have included: converting a dirt road into an all-weather, packed stone road; funding material and labor to build a tea-buying center to assist villagers in selling

for a second one; installing roof-top rainwater collection tanks as a source of clean drinking water; helping to connect the village to the electric grid and giving the community 5000 bed nets to reduce mosquito-spread malaria.

Mr. Angwenyi met with Ambassador Kamau last fall when he and several Hopewell students attended the 2013 Kenya Diaspora Conference in Washington, D.C. After informing the Ambassador about the relationship between Hopewell and Keroka, the Ambassador expressed an interest in visiting the area and learning more about Hopewell Valley's relationship with Kenyan villages.

“As a school community we are excited and honored to have Ambassador Jean Kamau visit our area to learn about the unique and special relationship we have forged with the Keroka region of Kenya. The visit of the ambassador is a learning opportunity for students on their role to make the world a nicer place.” (Angwenyi, February 2014).

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