

Our history

Kenya Embassy, Tel Aviv

History of the Embassy

The History of the Embassy began when Israel was the first country on 10th December 1963, to lay a foundation stone for her Embassy in Kenya, two (2) days before the declaration of Kenya's independence on 12th December 1963. Israel was also the first country to build her Embassy in Nairobi. While many countries around the globe played a "wait and see" diplomatic approach following the exit of the British from Kenya, Israel's then Foreign Affairs Minister, Golda Meir flew to Nairobi and discussed the country's plans to establish the Embassy in Kenya with H.E. Jomo Kenyatta, the Founding President of Kenya.

Kenya and Israel have had therefore very cordial relations ever since. Although these relations ruptured in 1973 when the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Member States, including Kenya, resolved to sever ties with Israel because of the Arab – Israeli war of 1973 (Yom Kippur War), both countries continued to have low level people-people relations. However, on 23rd December 1988 Kenya re-established Diplomatic relations with Israel. The historic visit to Israel in January 1994 by Kenya's former President H.E. Daniel Arap Moi further enhanced our bilateral relations. Thereafter, Kenya's first Ambassador to Israel was appointed in March 1994.

In July 1976 Kenya supported Israel during the Entebbe raid. A friendship that has endured and Kenya is also grateful to Israel for among others, the rescue assistance extended during the bombings of the United States of America Embassy in Nairobi in 1998 and the collapsed building in Nairobi in early 2006.

The relations between the two countries are productive and friendly in various fields and are underpinned by strong people to people ties, offering a strong basis for future growth. Both countries are looking to closer co-operation in political, trade and economic relations, science and technology, culture and academic exchanges.

Kenya Embassy in Tel Aviv was established with the appointment of Kenya's first resident Ambassador to the State of Israel in March 1994. Kenya has appointed six (6) Ambassadors to Israel since 1994 as follows:

Ambassador Albert Kiprop Kendagor: 2024 to date

Ambassador Samuel Nga'ng'a Thuita: 2019 - 2023

Ambassador Augustino Stephen Karanu Njoroge: 2010 - 2016

Ambassador Felistas Vunoro Khayumbi: 2004 - 2009

Ambassador Michael Sergon: 2001- 2003

Ambassador John Malan Sawe: 1994 - 2001