



Kenyan Ambassador to the U.S. Peter N.R.O. Ogego cuts Kenyatta Day cake in Atlanta, visited Dean Machinery International Inc., and attended Kenya Day at Kennesaw State University.

Kenya Ambassador Visits Atlanta for the Third Time

Phil Bolton for GlobalAtlanta

Kenya's ambassador to the United States, Peter N.R.O. Ogego, has developed a fondness for Atlanta having visited here three times in three weeks, most recently bringing members of his staffs from Los Angeles and Washington.

Mr. Ogego was in Atlanta on Oct. 20 for "Kenyatta Day." Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first prime minister and president, was arrested on Oct. 20, 1953, by British officials who had declared a state of emergency in the East African colony. Kenya became independent in 1963 and celebrates Kenyatta Day annually in honor of those who died fighting for the country's independence.

He also visited Kennesaw State University on Oct. 4 for its "Kenya Day" celebration. Kennesaw's Institute for Global Initiatives selects a different country every year for its country study program, including a series of lectures, performances, exhibits and films. This year it is studying Kenya.

Mr. Ogego's first visit to Atlanta was on Sept. 28 when he attended a road show, headed by Morris Dzoro, Kenya's minister for tourism and wildlife, promoting tourism in his country.

He said during the Kenyatta Day celebration that he decided to come here with his staffs because he had been so impressed by the receptions that he received during his first two visits.

He decided during his first visit to return when, by chance, he stopped in at the Africa World Museum near Five Points downtown and saw a Kenya flag and artworks on display. “Sometimes things happen for a reason,” he said, referring to how pleased he was with the museum.

During the celebration at the Marriott Residence Inn next to the museum, Terrell Slayton, Georgia’s deputy secretary of state, presented the ambassador with an honorary certificate of citizenship to the state and a state flag. Mr. Slayton also awarded Chief Tunde Adetunji, CEO and president of the museum and the Africa Heritage Foundation and host of the event, with an “outstanding citizen of Georgia” award.

Mr. Ogego was greeted by members of the Association of Kenya Professionals in Atlanta, who were co-sponsors of the event, and encouraged Atlantans to visit his country. He said that he already was working with a travel group to bring U.S. celebrities on a tour.

In addition, he said Kenya’s economy was improving, having achieved a rate of growth for its gross domestic product of more than 5 percent last year. And he predicted that by 2020, it would have an annual growth rate of more than 7 percent.

During his visits to Atlanta, Mr. Ogego has met with officials at CARE-USA, which is headquartered in Atlanta, and Bishop Eddie Long, the senior pastor at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia.

He also visited Dean Machinery International Inc. in Alpharetta, which has developed the Plotmaster, a multifunctional and low-cost plow engineered for agricultural use in developing countries.

Mr. Ogego took up his post in Washington in August as ambassador to the U.S., Mexico, and Colombia. Previously, he spent two and a half years in Canada as Kenya’s high commissioner.

The Web site for the Kenya embassy is www.kenyaembassy.com. To learn more about the Year of Kenya at Kennesaw State, call the Office of International Services and Programs at (770) 423-6336.