



## Australia Awards

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **Australia Welcomes Graduates Back to Kenya**

Australian High Commissioner-Designate to Kenya, John Feakes, today welcomed home Kenyan graduates from the Australia Awards program, who have recently returned from their studies in Australia under a fully-funded scholarship.

The Australia Awards graduates were joined at the ceremony by their employers from the Government of Kenya (including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Mining; Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government), and the private sector. Australia Awards Alumni, including members of the Kenya Australian Alumni Association, were also in attendance.

“These scholars have made an important step towards building a better future for themselves and Kenya. Today’s function provides an opportunity for the Australian Government to celebrate their achievements and commend them for a job well done,” said Mr Feakes. “We’re also welcoming them to the Australian Alumni family today, and look forward to seeing them as active members of our Alumni network”.

The Australian Government has been a strong partner in supporting development in Kenya. Since 2007, over 300 Kenyans have been funded through Australia Awards to study in Australia. Sectors of support have included agriculture, governance, health, mining, education, environment and sanitation. They join an estimated 5000 men and women from across the continent who have studied in Australia.

Janet Ochieng who completed a Master of Project Management at the University of South Australia last year, is committed to ensuring that her experience benefits both her career and her country. Following her studies in Australia, Ms. Ochieng said she is better equipped professionally, academically and socially to champion development programs in Kenya. “My 18 months stay in Australia was both interesting and challenging. I had great exposure to how the western world operates especially with time management and sincerity in transaction. This is a culture I have carried back home and has assisted in cementing my credibility. The most challenging part was the dissertation since I had to keep long day hours. Nonetheless, it has helped me fit into the rigorous devolved system of Government where I have added responsibilities”, she said.

Through Australia Awards, the Australian Government offers long-term and short-term scholarships. The initiative promotes equal participation by both women and men and seeks to ensure that people are given a fair and equal opportunity to compete for and obtain scholarships. The Australian Government has put mechanisms in place to support applicants and awardees requiring specific assistance and encourages people with disability to apply.

More information on Australia Awards in Africa is available on the website:  
[www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org)

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