

GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE PATRIARCHAL SEMINARY OF KENYA IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS BEATITUDE

In the presence of His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa and His Excellency the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya Mr. Kenneth Marende, the graduates of the Patriarchal Seminary "Archbishop Makarios III" received their diplomas on 30th May 2009.

The Patriarchal Seminary is situated in Nairobi and since the 1980s is one of the most significant seedbeds for the staff of the Alexandrian Church. It is one of the three largest Patriarchal Seminaries, together with the Patriarchal Academy of Alexandria "Athanasios the Great" and the corresponding school in operation in Kinshasa , Congo .

During his address, the Venerable Primate of the Throne of St Mark referred to the importance of the existence of educated clergy who will be able to contribute substantially to the missionary efforts of the Patriarchate in Africa .

With the occasion of the presence of His Eminence Chrysostomos of Kition His Beatitude expressed the gratitude of the ancient Patriarchate to the Church of Cyprus for its great contribution to the multifaceted missionary efforts. He also warmly thanked His Eminence Makarios Metropolitan of Kenya for his fruitful service.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, in his brief address, expressed his contentment for the contribution made by the Orthodox Church to the people of Kenya .

The award ceremony was also attended by His Excellency the Ambassador of Greece to Kenya Mr. Doundras, His Excellency the High Commissioner of Cyprus Mr Vassos Chamberlen, State officials, diplomatic representatives, members of the Greek Community and others.

INAUGURATION OF A CHURCH BY HIS BEATITUDE

On Sunday 31st May 2009, His Beatitude inaugurated the Holy Church of St Sophia in Nairobi , during the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy, together with His Eminence Chrysostomos of Kition and His Eminence Makarios of Kenya.

On the afternoon of the same day he had an official meeting with His Excellency the Ambassador of Russia in Kenya , Mr. Valery Egoshkin, who emphasized the important role played by the Alexandrian Church in the improvement of the quality of life of African citizens.

On his behalf, His Beatitude expressed his great satisfaction on the excellent relations between the ancient Patriarchate and the Russian Church .