Ambassador Elkanah Odembo comes to Washington after serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to France since January 2009. Prior to representing Kenya abroad, Ambassador Odembo held senior level positions at philanthropic and non-governmental organization in East Africa for more than two decades.

Advocating for human rights and social justice has always been at the core of Ambassador Odembo’s work. He was the founding director of Ufadhili Trust, a Nairobi based organization that promotes philanthropy, the use of local resources for social development, especially through corporate social responsibility, cross-sector partnerships, technical assistance, and policy research.

Prior to founding Afadhili, Ambassador Odembo served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation’s Africa Philanthropy Initiative. For 10 years, he was the East African Representative for the International NGO, World Neighbors. Odembo began his development career as a research and training officer at the African Medical Research Foundation. He later became Chairman of the Kenya Community Development Foundation, a lead facilitator for the Kenya Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Consultation Process.

Ambassador Odembo and his wife have two children.

Click here for more information on Ambassador Odembo’s UVU visit.
Kenyan Flag History:
The Kenyan flag is based on the black over red over green flag of Kenya African National Union, the political party that led the fight for freedom and independence of Kenya. Upon independence, the white fimbriation, symbolizing peace and unity, and the shield were added. The meaning of the colors of the flag match closely those of the Pan-African flag adopted by the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League in 1920.

Kenyan Flag Meaning:
The black band symbolizes the majority population, red the blood shed in the struggle for freedom, green stands for natural wealth, and white for peace; the Maasai warrior’s shield and crossed spears symbolize the defense of freedom.

Some of the oldest known paleontological records of the history of mankind on earth have been found in Kenya.

Kenya is the regional hub for trade and finance in East Africa.

Lake Turkana National Park and Mount Kenya National Park of Kenya are World Heritage Sites.

After 68 years of British rule Kenya gained independence from the United Kingdom in December 1963.

Kenya was named after Mount Kenya (pictured left), a very significant landmark in the country which stands at 5199 meters (17,021 ft), and is the highest point in the country, and the second tallest mountain in Africa.

The Great Rift Valley in Kenya was formed over 20 million years ago from the earth’s crust splitting.

The Majority of the population in Kenya are Protestants, followed by Roman Catholics, indigenous believers and Muslims.

Kenya has earned the title of top safari destination in the world with an estimated 65 National parks, game reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.

About 75% of Kenya’s people live in rural areas and over 99% of the population is made up of black Africans.

7% of the people in Kenya have HIV or AIDS, and every year more than 150,000 people die from AIDS.

Kenya has only two season—the rainy season and the dry season.

Kikuyu, an ethnic tribe in Kenya, has one of the fastest growing populations in the world.

The Information taken from Wikipedia.org, kenyaonetours.com, funtrivia.com, fun.yukazimo.com, library.thinkquest.org, & lifestyle.loveindia.com