**Mulembe Mwesi** *Hello Everyone*

**Jina langu ni Alan Cobb**  *My Name Is Alan Cobb*

**Ninafuraha Kukutana na wewe** *Nice To Meet You*

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Friends from Near and Far,**

**I am the Chair of Kennington Parish Council**

**You must excuse my pronunciation of Swahili as I am only just coming to terms with the language and I am nowhere proficient in its pronunciation so please forgive me.**

It is with great pride and heartfelt warmth that we gather here today to celebrate a momentous and hopeful step forward — the twinning of **Musanda**, in the heart of Kenya, with **Kennington**, a vibrant village in Oxfordshire.

**Leo ni siku ya furaha kubwa**.
Today is a day of great joy.

Today is not just the signing of a partnership; it is the birth of a relationship — a bridge across continents, cultures, and histories. A bridge built not of steel or stone, but of friendship, shared dreams, and mutual respect.

Though thousands of miles separate us in geography (6,222), the values that bring us together — **community, education, sustainability, and human dignity** — know no borders.

In **Musanda**, we see a community rich in heritage and resilience, a place where neighbors look out for one another, where young people are striving for a better future, and where the spirit of Ubuntu — “I am because we are” — is deeply alive. A Swahili saying:**“Umoja ni nguvu.”** Unity is strength.

In **Kennington**, we find a community rooted in compassion, global awareness, and a genuine willingness to engage with and learn from others. Our village may be small in size, but today, our heart reaches across the globe.

**“Karibu sana marafiki zetu.”**
You are very welcome, our friends.

Twinning is not just symbolic — it is practical, it is transformative, and it is deeply human. It opens the door to **school partnerships**, **health initiatives**, **cultural exchanges**, and **sustainable development projects**. It allows us to **listen to each other’s stories**, **share ideas**, **and walk together toward** a future we can all be proud of.

Let us remember — this partnership is not about one side giving and the other receiving. It is a **mutual exchange**. Every community, no matter where it is in the world, **has wisdom to offer and lessons to learn.**

**“Elimu ni ufunguo wa maisha.”**
Education is the key to life.

As we move forward, may this twinning bring opportunities for our youth to discover new worlds, for our elders to share their wisdom, and for our leaders to model global citizenship.

Let **Musanda** and **Kennington** stand as an example of what is possible when people come together not because they have to, but because they choose to — because they believe in the **power of friendship across borders**.

Let this partnership help unlock opportunities for both **Musanda** and **Kennington** — not just in **education**, but in **sustainability**, **health**, and **cultural understanding.**

On behalf of our communities, we thank all those who have worked tirelessly to make this partnership a reality — **the councils, schools, churches, volunteers**, and **countless individuals** whose quiet efforts have led to this proud day.

May this be the beginning of a long and meaningful journey between our two communities.

**Together, let us not only be twinned in name, but in spirit.**

And may this be the beginning of **something beautiful and bold** —

a true **rafiki wa milele** — a friendship that lasts forever.

**Thank you. Asante.**

**Good Bye. Kwaheri**