

African Diplomatic Spouses Group Introduces Itself to the Wife of Foreign Affairs Minister in Tehran.



African Diplomatic Spouses Delegation with Mrs. Lavasani Wife of Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister

Tehran African Diplomatic Spouses Group (TAG) recently introduced itself to the wife of the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister, Mrs. Lavasani, marking the beginning of a fruitful collaboration. The group TAG started in 2022 as a social gathering for African Diplomatic spouses based in Iran, who came together to support each other.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs premises, was attended by four representatives of the group's committee, who were warmly received by Mrs. Lavasani chair of the Iranian Diplomatic Ladies Association (DLA), a group of spouses of Iranian diplomats and foreign Ambassadors i.

The delegates led by the association's President, Madame Shelta Kupemba wife to Zimbabwean Ambassador, included Madame Hadja Alima Kabore wife to Burkina Faso

Ambassador, Mrs. Grace Kaseke wife to Deputy Ambassador of Zimbabwe and Mrs. Fatima Diabate Secretary of the Tehran African Diplomatic Spouses group. Madam Kupemba presented the group's objectives, highlighting its role in promoting cultural exchange, community service, and socialization among diplomatic spouses. She stated that Tehran African Diplomatic Spouses group is an independent, informal, voluntary, non-profit, non-political, non-religious group. It is open to all spouses of accredited members of African diplomatic missions in Tehran. She noted that 9 out of 11 missions actively participate in the group.

During the meeting, Madame Kupemba further briefed the Minister's wife on their upcoming events and activities, including cultural workshops, charity events, and social gatherings.

Madame Kabore highlighted the challenges faced by African diplomats, women in Iran. She stated that language was a biggest barrier especially in the health facilities. Madame Kabore requested assistance from the Iranian Authorities for African women especially in health centers where women can be assisted without difficulty.

Madame Kabore also requested translators for African women in both English and French in meetings and in health facilities to enable them to fully express themselves in a language they understand. Mrs. Lavasani took note of all these grievances and promised to look into the issue especially on translators in health facilities and revert back to the African Diplomatic Spouses group with a concrete answer.

Mrs. Lavasani, welcomed the group's initiative and expressed her enthusiasm for collaborating with the association. She acknowledged the importance of diplomatic spouses' roles in fostering goodwill and understanding between nations. She gave a brief background about the DLA, she stated that it is a group of women associated with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The group hosts charity fundraising events for projects like building schools. She further stated that the association includes spouses of Ambassadors and deputy ministers as well as Ministry of Foreign Affairs directors. Mrs. Lavasani stated that their association focuses on 5 thematic areas, i.e., health, education, tourism, culinary and psychology.

Mrs. Lavasani stated that the DLA will be glad to partner with the African group on various activities which fall under the highlighted thematic areas. She extended a warm invitation to African Diplomatic Muslim spouses to attend their religious classes which are held at the Ministry's premises once a month.

The committee had an opportunity to tour two classes which were in progress. The tour showcased the artistry and skill of Iranian women in creating exquisite handmade table cloths. The ladies witnessed the meticulous process of creating handmade table cloths from selecting the finest fabrics to intricately embroidering delicate patterns. The group was impressed by the attention to detail, the precision, and the patience required to create these stunning works of art. The handmade table cloths workshop is a testament to the creativity, skill, and entrepreneurial spirit of Iranian women. Mrs. Lavasani stated that the classes help to promote Iranian culture, preserve traditional crafts, and empower women through economic opportunities.



African Diplomatic Spouses Delegation touring the DSL class

With this introduction, the group has taken a significant step in establishing a strong relationship with the Foreign Ministry and promoting people-to-people diplomacy.