



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

Remarks by Heather Townsend Deputy Director of Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations May 21, 2013

Thank you. Good afternoon, bonjour, MweeReeWay, Minister, Ambassador Liberi, distinguished guests, and U.S. mission personnel.

What a wonderful day this is! I am honored to be here, representing the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations on behalf of Lydia Muniz.

This embassy literally embodies the importance of the relationship between the United States and Burundi.

It balances openness and security. Its design represents both Burundian and U.S. culture, and the links between us.

Approximately \$133 million has been invested in this new complex. It brings all missions into one location. Plus it provides almost 200 Bujumbura embassy personnel with a secure, state-of-the-art, environmental sustainable work place.

Minister Kavakure, thank you for vital support provided during construction by the government of Burundi.

Thank you, ambassador Liberi, and all mission staff for tremendous support of this important project.

I would like to recognize the OBO team; OBO project director David Cates; our general contractor Caddell Construction, Inc of Montgomery, AL.; Plus the architect of records, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (EYP).

We say "OBO builds buildings" but the truth is people build buildings. So finally I would like to thank the almost 1000 Burundian, Other East African, Turkish, and American workers whose raised the building behind us.

Through teamwork and commitment, they built a beautiful embassy that meets the highest standards in the building industry.

My staff told me that many of the Burundian trades people are among the best they have seen anywhere in world. After touring the embassy it's clear that this truly the case. I am humbled by your achievement.

So take good care of this building so it will take care of you. And I wish all of you many successful years here of unity, work and progress. Thank you, Merci, and MooRahKohZay.