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Kenyan Legend, Dr. Ali Mazrui, to Open 2009 Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series

Special Tribute to Ambassador Kwame Bawuah-Edusei to Follow

Dr. Ali Mazrui will deliver the first address of the 2009 "Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series" with a lecture entitled, "Is this the Dawn of a Post-Racial Age? From Othello to Obama." The event will take place Thursday, January 29 at the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana (3512 International Drive, N.W. Washington, DC). The program will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Mazrui's lecture to follow. The occasion will also honor His Excellency, Ambassador Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, who will leave his post shortly.

Dr. Ali Mazrui is a preeminent Kenyan scholar currently serving as Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at the State University of New York Binghamton, as well as Chancellor at the Jomo Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. He has also been a visiting scholar at several universities including Stanford, Oxford, and Harvard and has served as the President of the African Studies Association (USA), Vice-President of the International Political Science Association, and as a Special Advisor to the World Bank. Dr. Mazrui was also a member of the Board of Directors of the American-Muslim Council, Washington DC and is currently a member of The Africa Society Board of Directors.

Dr. Mazrui is perhaps best known for his 1986 PBS/BBC documentary series, *The Africans: A Triple Heritage*. The production highlights three major influences on Africans, including traditional African culture, Islamic culture, and Western Culture.

In his lecture on Thursday, Dr. Mazrui will discuss the possibility of a post-racial age in the United States and the potential impact on the continent of Africa. Recent political events make this a timely and relevant presentation.

His Excellency, Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ambassador from Ghana to the United States, is well deserving of the forthcoming tribute. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the United States in 2006, Dr. Bawuah-Edusei provided free medical care to people in the deprived areas of Northern Ghana, and lobbied to the U.S. State Department, Congress, and The World Bank to guarantee the sustainability of democracy in Ghana. In addition, in 2005, he served as Chair of the African Ambassadors' Group of the AU in Geneva. During his time as the Republic of Ghana's Ambassador to the United States His Excellency Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei has effectively provided many diplomatic, humanitarian, and medical accomplishments for the Ghanaian community.

In its seventh year, the "Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series on Africa" features distinguished speakers whose work has influenced and advanced awareness of U.S.-Africa relations. Named in honor of the former Chairman of the Africa Society Board, The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa launched the Series in 2002, and continues to hold the events at African embassies on a rotational basis.