

**REMARKS BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU
HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA, AT THE NEW YEAR'S DIPLOMATIC
SHERRY PARTY HOSTED FOR HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
13 JANUARY 2023, STATE HOUSE, DAR ES SALAAM**

- *Honourable Dr. Stergomena Tax (MP), Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation;*
- *Excellency Dr. Ahamada El Badaoui Mohamed Fakh, Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;*
- *Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations;*

- *Distinguished Invited Guests;*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen;*
- *Good Evening*

Opening

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you a warm welcome to the second Diplomatic Sherry Party since I assumed office as President of the United Republic of Tanzania. I would also like to extend my very best wishes to you and your families for a prosperous 2023.

I am grateful to you for honoring my invitation to join me on this auspicious occasion this evening. Your presence is a testament to the strong relations enjoyed between Tanzania and your respective countries and organizations.

In a special way, I would like to extend a special warm welcome to new Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Heads of Regional and International Organizations who have joined the Diplomatic Corps after the last Sherry Party. I wish you the most fulfilling tour of duty in Tanzania, I pledge my personal and government's full support in facilitating your work, as you discharge your responsibilities during your tour of duty in Tanzania.

As you might have noticed, Tanzania is a spectacular country. It is one of the most stable and peaceful countries with very hospitable people. It has a wide array of attractive places to visit and enjoy. They include some of the most celebrated tourist attractions of the spice islands of Zanzibar, Ngorongoro Crater, Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti National Park and many others. I, therefore, encourage you to take advantage of your stay here to visit these places.

Condolences

Excellencies,

Allow me to express my heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones, since we last met. Let us all pray for the souls of the departed relatives, colleagues and friends to rest in eternal peace. Amen!

Economic Outlook

Excellencies,

Despite the economic headwinds occasioned by the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the raging global conflicts, particularly, the war in Ukraine-for which we continue urging the parties to find an amicable solution-and the resultant supply chain disruptions, Tanzania's economy has displayed remarkable resilience. For 2022, the GDP grew at 4.7% compared to 4.3% in 2021 and in 2023, it is projected to grow at well above 5%. The prospects look even better for the years to come. Thanks to strong and competent management of the economy which has received accolades even from the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank. This, coupled with a series of reforms that included the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment, have stimulated

private sector-led growth through the restoration of market forces and less Government intervention in commercial activities. The result of which has been a phenomenal increase in FDI flows into the country with the period from July - November 2022 witnessing an unprecedented number of 132 projects worth USD 3.16 Billion; an increase of 22.2% in comparison with the number of projects registered during the same period in 2021.

On another front, the launch of the Tanzania Royal Tour documentary has received rave reviews and boosted Tanzania's tourism industry. The number of tourist arrivals in the country continues to grow, and it is our hope that as we emerge from the COVID -19 pandemic, we will do better.

While this is happening, the implementation of our unprecedented mega infrastructural projects continues apace. The construction of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) to generate 2,115 Megawatts was at 78.68% as of December 2022 with its completion expected to be in June 2024, while the Standard Gauge Railway Project also proceeding well. With the award of tender for the construction of Lot.6 in December 2022, the entire central railway line from Dar es Salaam to Tabora and onwards to Mwanza and Kigoma will now be completed. The project should make Tanzania the first country in Africa to have an electric SGR railway line totaling 2,201 Km offering tremendous economic benefit to Tanzania as well as to our neighbors and beyond. It will transport their goods at reduced time and costs. Meanwhile, the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is expected to commence anytime, as the procurement exercise is in its final

stage. On the other hand, we are finalizing necessary protocols for the Liquefied Natural Gas Project following the signing of agreement between our government and Liquefied Natural Gas Plant (LNG).

On the other hand, last year was a time to review our population figures to ensure right statistics for better economic planning and performance. I am happy that we successfully conducted our National Census in August 2022. It was an exemplary exercise in Africa, as for the first time it combined counting individuals and buildings at an acceptable international standard. Now, Tanzania has a total of Sixty-One Million, Seven Hundred Forty-One Thousand, and One Hundred and Twenty people (**61,741,120**) out of whom 51% are women; and Fourteen Million, Three Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand, and Three-Hundred and Seventy-Two (**14,348,372**) buildings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have continued rendering us support in all spheres of our socio-economic development; and I urge them to continue their cooperation and support in 2023.

Political Dialogue

Excellencies,

As you might have learnt that a lot is also ongoing in Tanzania's political front. Under the 4Rs theme, namely, *'Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform and Rebuilding'* I have been trying to create a new atmosphere of political life. The theme is basically based on the concept that there cannot be development if citizens feel they are not part of the system. This can be resolved by an inclusive system to be achieved through reconciliatory measures which bring them together and chart

the way forward. Thus, in my view, the government has to be flexible, invite other actors to reconcile different views and agree on necessary reforms towards nation rebuilding.

It is my firm belief that every Tanzanian has a stake in the development and destiny of the country. I also firmly believe that all citizens have rights and freedoms which they should be allowed to enjoy within the confines of established laws. That is why, since I came into office, I have taken deliberate measures to reach out to all groups of people including members of the opposition and civil society with a view to finding a common understanding on issues of common interest and concern, and to avoid unnecessary friction and conflict; and this all about the 4Rs.

Besides the political dialogue, the Commission on Criminal Justice Reform has been instituted, and freedom of the press expanded. Yet, more reforms are planned including the review of Tanzanian Constitution. All this is to deepen democratic and good governance practices.

At the global level, Tanzania and the European Union Member States held their third political dialogue to reaffirm a strong partnership founded on mutual trust, cooperation and shared interests. I have been informed that another round of Political Dialogue is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. It is our strong belief that dialogue remains one of the best ways to understand each other and address misinformation.

Bilateral Cooperation

Excellencies,

As you are aware, there has been interaction as well between Tanzania and your countries and institutions in order to solidify our bilateral relations. Thus, in 2022, several state and official visits were exchanged, and meetings of the Joint Permanent Commissions and related arrangements between Tanzania and some of your countries were held with a number of agreements reached in multiple sectors of socio-economic spheres.

Thanks for the invitations, warm welcome and hospitality which we were accorded in all the countries we visited. My government is committed to ensuring that we continue exchanging visits, and the agreements reached are implemented

in an efficient and effective manner for our mutual benefit in order to take the existing relations to new heights.

Regional Integration

Excellencies,

Tanzania continues to believe in the role of regional integration as an important vehicle for the advancement of the national agenda.

As you are all aware the Democratic Republic of the Congo is now a full member of the East African Community which is progressing well despite some hitches, particularly with regard to security situation in the Eastern DRC. Yet, I am pleased to inform you that necessary steps have been ongoing to bring peace to the area. They include the signing of the Status of Force Agreement, and the agreement on Goma to be The Joint

Command Headquarters. Let me clarify that, the EAC Forces will not work in isolation rather will cooperate with local arrangements and MONUSCO.

Excellencies,

While these initiatives are underway, the Community has put in place an open room for dialogue under the leadership of President Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya. The United Republic of Tanzania would like to encourage all parties to participate in the dialogue for attaining lasting peace in the DRC.

I am also pleased to inform you that on 17 August 2022 in Kinshasa, the 42nd Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government, among other things, noted with satisfaction the progress made to address the security situation in Cabo

Delgado Province, in the Republic of Mozambique. The summit extended the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) mandate in order to ensure that its objectives are fully accomplished. I would like to reassure you of Tanzania's continued commitment to participate in the Mission through the contribution of troops, as well as other support.

AU and the African Continental Free Trade Area

Excellencies,

With regard to Africa's continental integration, the African Union is forging ahead with Continent's transformation agenda. Tanzania will continue supporting these initiatives to ensure the realization of Agenda 2063 vision and its projects.

In that regard, I am also pleased to inform you that Tanzania has signed and ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. It is now ready for its implementation with countries that have completed the procedures to open up the Product Market and are ready to start trading under the Guided Trade Initiatives. Thus, Tanzania is among the pilot countries whose horticultural products, pharmaceuticals, rubber, aluminum kitchenware, sugar, steel, and wooden products will start to be traded under this arrangement. These products originating from Africa will enjoy duty-free and quota-free trading among the partner countries.

In that connection, I wish to inform this gathering, that as the Champion of Women and Youth in Trade under the AfCFTA, I was privileged to host the AfCFTA Conference on Women and Youth in Trade from 12th to 14th September 2022 in Dar es Salaam under the theme, *“Women and Youth: The*

Engine of AfCFTA Trade in Africa". Also held the Inter-Generational Dialogue Retreat of the African Women Leadership Network (AWLN) from 2nd to 4th December 2022, in Zanzibar under the theme, "*African Young Women Lead- Mobilizing Partnerships and Pathways for Economic Empowerment, Sustainability and Financial Inclusion.*" Both meetings underscored the importance of gender equality, creating a conducive business environment, economic empowerment and financial inclusion.

In the same spirit, let me take this opportunity to also welcome Your Excellencies and Your Governments to the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF Summit 2023) which is now rebranded as the African Food Systems Forum to be held from 4th to 8th September 2023 in Dar es Salaam. The aim is to

push forward actions and investments that can address the unfolding food crisis.

Still on the AU front, as some of you are aware, Tanzania is now a member of the Peace and Security Council; and is expected to chair the organ in the month of March 2023. It is our hope that with your cooperation and support we will be able to make our expected contribution in the interest of peace and security on the continent.

Multilateral Cooperation

Excellencies,

The United Republic of Tanzania firmly believes in a rule-based multilateral system because many challenges that we are confronted with today do not lend themselves to unilateral or

bilateral action. They demand that countries come together under the coordination of global institutions, not the least of which, the United Nations and its agencies to resolve. This is true whether it is climate change, global pandemics, migration, refugees, wars, terrorism, transnational organized crimes etc. We, therefore, call for the strengthening of multilateralism while shunning the tendency toward unilateralism.

In this aspect, Tanzania will continue to be a reliable and responsible player. As we speak, despite of resource constraints, Tanzania has contributed 1,489 men and women in 4 out of the existing 16 peacekeeping missions across the world; and we stand ready to contribute more.

On the issue of refugees, as it is an tradition since our independence, we continue playing host to a large number of refugees mainly from Burundi and DRC. We appeal to the UNHCR and the international community to provide more help in finding a durable solution to the refugee crisis, including helping the countries of origin to reintegrate their citizens upon returning, the exercises which have stalled due to lack of resources.

With respect to climate change, last year, I participated in the Leaders' Summit during the COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh Egypt. While some progress was made, such as the decision to establish a loss and damage fund, a lot still needs to be done particularly on the part of developed countries. Tanzania joins other like-minded countries to call on the

international community to live up to its commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate finance, there has to be enhanced capacity building, and technology transfer, the support for adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as the creation of independent loss and damage financial facility that will help in the fight against climate change.

As a party to the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Tanzania has put forward ambitious targets on both adaptation and mitigation through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and it spends up to 3% of its GDP on mitigation and community resilience. We are committed to continually updating our NDCs and making important progress to tackle climate change.

Meanwhile, I would like to commend the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and other UN Agencies in Tanzania for the launch, last year, of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Tanzania. The cooperation framework will guide Tanzania and the UN system over the next five years. It is anticipated that this will contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Tanzania Vision 2025. I implore the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the cooperation framework, and I pledge my government's full cooperation.

Expanding our Representation

Excellencies,

Last year, our government took more steps towards expanding its diplomatic representation. We opened two embassies in Austria that also serves as the Permanent Mission

to the UN Offices in Vienna; and also the embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. The General Consulates were opened in Guangzhou, the Peoples' Republic of China, and Lubumbashi, DRC. As Tanzania is part of the International Community, It is our aim to continue improving our diplomatic relations at all levels.

Relocation to the Capital – Dodoma

Excellencies,

As you are aware, Dodoma is officially the Capital City of Tanzania. The Government has relocated to the Capital, and we are taking every measure to make it a modern city with all necessary facilities and services. As we do so, I wish to appeal to you to make arrangements to also relocate to the Capital now to benefit from the incentives that the government is offering, before their timeline expires. Therefore, I urge you to engage the

relevant authorities for better understanding of the available opportunities in there.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, allow me to reassure you of my commitment and that of our government to further enhance the existing cooperation and partnership with your countries and organizations.

I also wish to reaffirm the resolve and unwavering commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to the pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development, and human rights. We remain committed to working even more closely with you all, in the spirit of multilateralism and global solidarity toward a sustainable future.

Once again, I wish you and your families a Happy and peaceful New Year with more prosperity and happiness.

Thank you for your kind attention

Asanteni Sana!