

PRESS STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF HER EXCELLENCY KAMALA HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A, 30TH MARCH 2023

- *Your Excellency, Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America;*
- *Senior Government Officials from Tanzania and the United States;*
- *Members of the Press;*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A very good morning to you all.

Today, Tanzania has made another historic milestone, with two female leaders, a President and Vice President, meeting here at the State House in Dar es Salaam. To put a cherry on top of all this, the meeting takes place during the Women's History Month. What an inspiration and a testimony to Tanzanian young girls! I truly thank you Madam Vice President for this great honour.

Madam Vice President and dear sister, I thank you for accepting my invitation to visit our country and for placing Tanzania among priority countries for your visit in Africa. It is also a demonstration of your country's desire to invigorate its relations with Africa, a very important move and something we have always sought to pursue.

Your visit speaks volumes of our existing bilateral relations in various fields of cooperation. High level visits by our various officials have continued to cement further these relations. With your visit am sure Tanzanian's are now anxiously waiting for President Biden's visit, kindly convey our regards that Tanzania is waiting for him. I am sure the United States, hold these relations and partnerships in very high regard just like we do.

It is truly a delight to host you; *Karibu sana Tanzania!*

Excellency Madam Vice President,

For over six decades, Tanzania has been a beneficiary of invaluable support from the United States of America. This support has greatly contributed to our national efforts to improve the lives and livelihood of our people.

We appreciate the U.S. support in complementing Tanzania's development endeavors in different sectors such as health, education, water, sanitation, agriculture and food security, natural resources, infrastructure development, democracy, as well as good governance.

For instance, in the health sector, HIV/AIDS and TB are no longer life threatening to our people. HIV/AIDS infection rate has reduced from a prevalent of 7.2% in 2012 to 4.7% in 2016/2017. New TB infections have reduced from 306 per 100,000 people to 208 per 100,000. While pregnant women who are infected with HIV are assured of giving birth and raising HIV free children.

Through your support malaria deaths which were a norm have now been reduced from **54%**, from **7.7 million** in 2015 to **3.5 million** in **2022**; thanks to Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI). Our goal is towards having a malaria free Society. We count on you to achieve this, and we are ready to support interested investor who want to establish manufacturing plants in Tanzania in order to shorten the supply chain.

Madam Vice President, as the world is grappling with food insecurity due to drastic climatic effects, Tanzania is grateful to the US Government for reinstating it to the Feed the Future Initiative. This move has come at an opportune moment given our national agenda of boosting agriculture - led growth by transforming the sector.

The Government of Tanzania commends the initiatives and commitments by the Government of the United States of America towards strengthening ocean governance and sustainable utilization of Blue Economy resources in Tanzania. I am informed that the Second Gentleman will launch The U.S. Project on Respect the Ocean (*Heshimu Bahari*) today afternoon. This will indeed complement our efforts in promoting Blue Economy-related policies and initiatives in Tanzania. We particularly welcome cooperation in the following areas: fisheries, fish farming, salt mining, gas and oil exploration, seaweed farming, blue tourism, and marine transportation.

Tanzania still enjoys several other assistance interventions from the great people of the United States, such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We request for an early renewal of the AGOA because it is only through business and trade, not aid that we from the African continent can emancipate ourselves from the grips of poverty.

Since my assumption to power I have endeavored to build a democratic state that upholds transparency and respect of the rule of law. I am grateful to President Joe Biden for inviting me to participate in the Summit for Democracy. This invitation sends a clear message that the fathers of democracy recognize our efforts in building a democratic nation. As an important partner in our pursuit for democracy and good governance, this recognition from the U.S. leadership means a lot to me and to the people of Tanzania.

Madam Vice President,

Members of the Press,

It is our firm belief that this visit will not only offer an opportunity for our countries to strengthen the existing relation but also provide a platform to explore new areas of cooperation.

It is in this light that I am pleased to announce that several agreements focusing on the areas of USAID assistance, Port cooperation, Commercial dialogue and Information Communication Technology have been signed as a result of this visit.

All these agreements that have been signed, definitely will have positive impact in our developmental endeavors. For instance, on USAID assistance through Development Objectives Agreement (DOAG), the United States will commit 1.3 billion to finance various socio-economic programmes in Tanzania. On port cooperation, the agreement will provide technical assistance and support to the development of ports both in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar in areas of efficiency and modernization. As for commercial dialogue, the agreement will accord an avenue for regular engagements between our countries to facilitate trade and investment.

On information communication technology, the agreement will promote technology roadmap, cybercrime frameworks and provide cybersecurity technical assistance.

My most important request now is to ensure fully implementation of those agreements. *Madam Vice President*, I assure you that the Tanzanian side will honour all the commitments made.

Last but not least, is the issue of visa to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services between our two countries. In this respect, Tanzania welcomes the readiness of the Government of the United States to review the existing visa status to enable the citizens of our two nations to benefit from a long-duration visa. We believe under this arrangement, our two countries will register a significant increase in trade, tourism and investment.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to re-affirm Tanzania's commitment to further promoting its bilateral relations with the United States of America for mutual benefits of two countries and peoples.

Madam Vice President, thank you once again for visiting our country and I look forward to fruitful discussions together.