

**SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO BE
DELIVERED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF DURING THE
STATE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, 25th OCTOBER
2023**

*Your Excellency Hakainde Hichilema,
President of the Republic of Zambia;*

*Right Honourable Malungo Chisangano,
First Deputy Speaker;*

*Right Honourable Moses Moyo,
Second Deputy Speaker;*

*Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present;
Honourable Members of Parliament;*

*Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly;
Dignitaries here present, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;*

On behalf of the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania, I thank you for this honour to address the National Assembly.

Madame Deputy Speaker;

At the outset, I wish to convey my deepest condolences to the Speaker, to all members of this House and the people of Zambia for the passing on of Honorable **Amussaa Mwanamwabwa**, former Speaker of Zambia National Assembly and one of great sons of this land. He was a frequent visitor to Tanzania and made many good friends there. Our hearts go out to his family. May the Lord grant them the fortitude to bear this loss. We pray that his soul rest in eternal peace.

I am here in Zambia at the invitation of His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema (HH). My stay in Zambia has been remarkable, and the hospitality has been exceptional. I cautioned President Hichilema that, with this kind of treatment, I might be knocking at Zambia's door now and then and he should not be surprised to see us back here in the near future. After all, to us, Zambia is also home.

Madame Deputy Speaker;

At the outset, I would like to congratulate all the Honourable Members of this house for being entrusted to be the voices of the Zambian people. In my career, I had the honour to represent constituencies first in the House of Representatives of Zanzibar and later in the Parliament of the UR/Tanzania. It is a special privilege and responsibility, and one which is also of key

importance in the relations between our two countries. This is a point I will return to before I conclude.

For now, it will be remiss of me, if I didn't salute you, Madame Deputy Speaker, for being the first female Speaker in the history of Zambia. Her election to the speakership is testament of her commitment and dedication to public service, and the confidence her peers have in her leadership. But let me add this, these attributes have also been recognized in the region and beyond. Just this September you were awarded by your global peers the distinguished title of the Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year 2023. As such, we also commend you for the remarkable job you are doing.

Madame Deputy Speaker,

Thank you for inviting me to address this august Assembly. I note with gratitude that, under your able leadership, I am the first Female Head of State to join the list of foreign dignitaries who have addressed this August House. I am humbled.

THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TANZANIA-ZAMBIA

*Madame Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members,
Distinguished Guests*

The relations between our two countries were solidified by the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Ngwazi Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, our founding fathers. Their closeness made us understand the close ties we share with the Zambian people. In Tanzania, we adored President Kaunda. So much so,

that we got carried away with his style and attire, which left a lasting impression in the form of the Kaunda Suit. Today, the Kaunda Suit is an official dress in Tanzania and recognized as so even by our Parliament. To us the style and attire meant many things. It conveyed pride in our freedom, it spoke to our working-class roots and our ties to the soil, and it spoke to our solidarity in managing our affairs.

In solidarity, these two leaders also led our countries in the fight for liberation of Southern Africa. This is a legacy and noble heritage that we should endeavour to protect.

I am happy to note that the closeness and the bonds between our two countries have endured. Across our borders, the links between our countries have grown in many respects. On land, we are linked by the TANZAM highway and by the

TAZARA railway. Underground, we are linked by the TAZAMA oil pipeline. Above the surface, we are linked in two respects: the power transmission lines linking the East African Power Pool and the Southern African Power Pool, and also by Air Tanzania passenger planes, and soon cargo flights.

With all this in mind, going forward I can only say: *'Tiyende Pamodzi'* (meaning *let's go together*).

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY

Madame Deputy Speaker

Globally, the COVID 19 pandemic and war in Ukraine have impacted growth prospects, disrupted supply chains, and increased inflation risks, with sharp rises in oil and food prices. As a result, our countries have had to respond to these global

developments. Here, I wish to note the commendable, and bold reforms and measures President HH has embarked on.

These responses by our countries require steadfast support from the people. In addition, tackling these challenges also requires cooperation and partnership between friends. This was the spirit of my discussions with President Hichilema. We resolved to work together in response to these challenges.

I have therefore come to Zambia to cement our intention to work together with Zambia for a brighter future. And, if I can sum up my main message on this visit in two words, it would be **Cementing Economic Solidarity.**

WHY ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY AND WHY NOW?

Madame Deputy Speaker;

The historic TAZARA railway can bring tremendous prosperity if utilized to fully. When fully operational, TAZARA can carry **5 million metric tonnes** of cargo. However, last year's records indicate that the railway only used **4 percent of its capacity to carry 210,000 (two hundred and ten thousand) metric tons of cargo**). Clearly, more work needs to be done to utilize TAZARA's full capacity. On the other hand, the TAZARA's capacity to carry **3 million people per year** is dwarfed by the reality that even at its peak a maximum of **564,000 (five hundred and sixty-four thousand) people** were carried.

Our two governments are aware of the importance of TAZARA to our economies. Joint efforts will be required to resolve the challenges TAZARA faces. Joint initiatives will also be needed to facilitate leasing and mobilization of resources for renovations.

The same holds for Tanzania-Zambia Mafuta (TAZAMA) pipeline. Expanding TAZAMA pipeline is key for Zambia's energy security. We commit to doing so jointly, and we will factor in all necessary considerations including environmental and security ones among others.

As for the Tanzania-Zambia Highway (TANZAM) linking our two countries, it has some patches that need major upgrades. Tanzania is ready to embark on joint resource mobilization efforts with Zambia to finance upgrades of this

important infrastructure to further facilitate trade and reduce trade costs.

THE ROLE OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE

Madame Deputy Speaker,

Parliamentarians play a key role in fostering bilateral relations. The good intents of our two Governments require solid backing of our respective Parliaments if they are to bring about the intended outcomes.

Members of Parliament represent the people, and engage in debates about government plans, budgets, and programs. These plans require political backing or funding which means parliamentary approval is crucial. If MPs are unconvinced or politicize these plans, it hampers progress, impacting both Tanzanians and Zambians.

The feedback we are getting from the people living along our shared border is that, the existing legal framework could be friendlier to business and trade if we do not politicize these frameworks. As such, when our Government's present informed and outward-looking proposals to address these Non- Tariff Barriers (NTBs) raised by our people, we will come here to seek your support to solve these impediments.

In the same vein, *Madam Deputy Speaker*, in the near future, our bilateral initiatives may result in renovating existing shared infrastructure or constructing the new projects. These projects will certainly pass through your respective Constituencies. As Members of Parliament, your role is key to ensuring that these projects materialize. Your role is also important to get the community's support to better guarantee the sustainability of these infrastructure projects.

It is for these reasons that this House plays a key role in our relations.

WHAT ARE WE IN TANZANIA DOING TO FURTHER DEEPEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA

Madame Deputy Speaker, the volume of trade between Tanzania and Zambia and goods from Dar es Salaam transiting Zambia is increasing considerably. Given the potential for further trade growth between our countries, we made deliberate efforts to increase efficiency at the Port of Dar es Salaam.

First, we designated an area at **Kwala Dry Port** and **my Government has allocated 20 hectares of land for consignments destined for Zambia.** The Dry Port will facilitate longer free storage periods of up to 45 days, from the current 15 days at Dar es Salaam port.

Second, we developed the Tanzania Electronic Single Window System (TESWS) that will enhance efficiency in processing documentation.

Third, we are finalizing review of our Ports Tariff Book that will set an equal system of charging wharfage by 3 United States Dollars per Tonnage or Cubic Meter (CBM).

Madame Deputy Speaker;

In addition to these efforts, just recently, we entered into an Agreement with the Dubai Port company (DP World) to operate a part of our Dar es Salaam Port. As such, we expect to see more transformative changes, in terms of improved efficiency, reduced ship turnaround times, reduced CIF costs and overall lowering the costs for users of the Port. This is an opportunity for our Zambian brothers and sisters. I hope you will not miss in action.

Madame Deputy Speaker;

Tunduma-Nakonde Border is a crucial border for trade between Tanzania and Zambia. During our discussions, President Hichilema and I set in motion measures to address bottlenecks that exist in the movement of goods and people along the border. As we discussed, removing bureaucratic impediments is necessary for the two countries to enjoy the benefits of trade.

I am also happy to inform this august assembly that Tanzania is ready to support the construction of a new **Kasesya/Zombe** border post to ease the movement of people and goods.

Additionally, I want to assure you that Tanzania is prepared to further facilitate the free movement of people between our two countries, by extending the visa-free entry period from the current 90 days to 180 days.

Madame Deputy Speaker;

As I wind up, it is evident that our governments have done a lot of work in fostering trade between our two countries. However, like many of us, I believe there is still much to be done to make our economic potential match our political relations.

Earlier on, I mentioned the important role of this Parliament in fostering the relations between our two countries. Here I wish to make appeals to the Honourable Members of this August Assembly.

To the Honourable Members in this House:

I call on you to transmit my message of solidarity to the brotherly people of Zambia, and our rally to them saying: *'Tiyende Pamodzi'*.

I call on you to transmit my invitation to Zambians to trade with Tanzania, and to give them this message of the transformations underway in Tanzania to ease movement and further facilitate trade.

I call on you to continue to voice the concerns and challenges of Zambians trading in Tanzania, and to bring their concerns to us, so that our two Governments can swiftly table, discuss and address any concerns.

I call on you, Honourable Members, to continue to urge the people of Zambia to support the various joint projects being undertaken to further link our countries. In doing so, it is important to impress upon them that these are their projects, done for their benefit, and they have a role in protecting them.

I call on you to support the various initiatives being undertaken to promote trade and investment between our two countries, including by passing the necessary legislation to support these projects, most notably the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Act.

I call on you to enhance cooperation with your peers in the National Assembly of Tanzania, including undertaking exchange visits in areas of mutual interest.

Lastly, I call on you, Honourable Members, to continue bringing our two countries and people even closer together.

Madame Deputy Speaker;

I want to assure you that Tanzania will continue to play its role in fostering and facilitating regional prosperity, peace and stability. I strongly believe, through sincere intentions and noble and deliberate actions, we can honour the legacy of our forefathers. We will continue to show solidarity, and not shy away from our responsibility to foster common understanding and collaboration between our people and countries. It is a legacy that we are proud of, and it is a legacy that is also shared with the people of Zambia.

I assure you of my unwavering commitment and that of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to continue working closely with His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the mutual benefit of our peoples. I wish to impress upon you that my presence here today, in this esteemed August House, and my engagement with the Honourable Members, speaks volumes about this very commitment.

MAY GOD BLESS TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA!

MAY GOD BLESS AFRICA!

AHSANTE SANA!