

SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA DURING
THE STATE VISIT TO ANGOLA, LUANDA - 8TH APRIL, 2025

- *Honourable Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola;*
- *Honourable Ministers,*
- *Honourable Members of the National Assembly;*
- *Clerk of the National Assembly,*
- *Distinguished Invited Guests,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Good afternoon,

Boa tarde,

I feel greatly honored and privileged to speak to the National Assembly of Angola, Indeed I have had similar privilege in other Parliaments, however this is special. It is special because, first it is a rare opportunity to be the first Female Head of State to join the list of foreign dignitaries who have addressed this august Assembly in the past.

Second, this occasion comes 19 years after the last state visit from our Former President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete who also delivered his remarks

which were mainly in his capacity as the Chair of AU Summit. Third, I am addressing you as Tanzania's first ever female President, and my remarks will mainly focus on renewing and rethinking Tanzania- Angola relations into meaningful partnership.

These three aspects make me feel honoured and very much privileged and my happiness went overboard when I was welcomed by a stellar woman leader- yourself Madam Speaker, who also respectfully, availed me this opportunity. This is a clear manifestation of how highly you value our bilateral relations. I thank you for this kind gesture, and the heartfelt message you have spoken about me and my dear country, the United Republic of Tanzania.

Madam Speaker,

With me I bring fraternal greetings and well wishes from the brotherly people of Tanzania and your colleagues from the Parliament of Tanzania, in particular, your esteemed colleague, Honourable Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, and the President of Inter-Parliamentarian Union (IPU).

I commend you, not only for being the first female Speaker in the history of this National Assembly but also for the exemplary manner in which you have led this distinguished house. I listened attentively to your speech about the huge responsibilities borne by this Assembly. I salute you

Madam Speaker.

Your leadership is a clear testament to the increasing confidence and trust that the people of Africa place in women in politics and governance—a field previously deemed a preserve for men.

Madam Speaker,

As a Former Parliamentarian myself for 15 years, I understand this task carries with it a lot of challenges and responsibility to serve the people you represent. I always have deep respect for Parliament because they are our important brake in overseeing our work - we the Executive. The presence of an active Parliament is a clear reflection of the virtues of democracy.

It is here in this August house that national aspirations are echoed, great decisions are made, and fiery debates witnessed in a bid to achieve lifetime solutions. With me are fellow parliamentarians who happen to be Ministers too and senior government officials. I believe this visit will be the beginning of many more visits by them, to solidify our relations, since it is in this house that our diplomatic and political relations are endorsed.

Madam Speaker,

Angola to us is like one of the many houses one can have. It does not matter how long you have not visited that house but whenever you visit the warmth and the nostalgia keeps getting better.

Tanzania and Angola have a shared history, political affinities and shared sense of humanity. The selfless role played by our founding fathers Mwalimu and Neto in liberating Africa is the same spirit we the succeeding generations of leadership continue to stand on in solidifying our bilateral ties.

On this note, allow me to register my heartfelt appreciation to my elder brother President Joao Lourenço. I am grateful for the warm hospitality, colorful reception and definitely the finger licking cuisine. I was impressed to learn of similarities of peoples names. With me is Minister Kombo, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, I know there many other Kombos here in Angola and if lucky, he might come along his kin who carries a similar name.

Madam Speaker,

The dark ages of colonialism, the shared struggle for liberation, the uncertain paths we have endured as independent countries in a divided world, the dawn of the new opportunities and the unity of aspirations of our young population all connected us and still connect us. And here, I am noticing quite a resemblance of our Parliament to yours, which boasts many young Parliamentarians. This is due to the state of our continent which is getting more youthful by the day.

Madam Speaker,

This year, Angola will proudly celebrate 50 years of its independence. Tanzania joins you in celebrating this significant milestone. We value the sacrifices made by your leaders and people during the struggle for liberation. As the headquarter and Chair of the OAU Liberation Committee -Tanzania, hosted and provided support, including training camps, arms and safe passage to freedom fighters, from various liberation movements, including the ones from Angola. We witnessed the blood, tears and sweat your freedom fighters endured. As a friendly country together with other Frontline States we stood firm to empower our Angolan brothers to confront the colonial oppressors. United we were able to fight the oppressors and the exploiters leading to the realization of the Angolan independence.

Madam Speaker,

Tanzania played this instrumental role not by coincidence but as our Founding Father Mwalimu Nyerere said, 'Africa has no future if there's no unity.' Mwalimu believed for Tanzania to be totally free it meant other Africans must also be free to achieve a united Africa.

While celebrating this milestone we must remember the price our founding fathers paid for us to enjoy this freedom now. Angola as a country has undergone an exploitation of its endowed natural resources couple with civil war for more than two decades. This harrowing past

makes development not easy, but the people of Angola have risen from these ashes and has proved that what matter is not time rather visionary leadership and willingness of the citizens to work hard and bring development for present and future generations.

I salute the invaluable sacrifices made by the heroes and heroines of Angola during the bitter times of struggle for liberation.

In a very special way, I salute my Dear Brother, President Lourenço, for his sterling leadership that continue to forge national unity and promote interests of all Angolans, while ensuring peace and tranquility prevail in the entire country at all times. I also wish to salute him for the manner in which he has managed the economy of this great country.

Indeed, under his able leadership, Angola's economy has significantly thrived over the years. I particularly wish to salute him for unshakable determination to combat corruption. As you know, corruption destroys public trust; makes ineffective governance, distorts markets and equitable access to social services; and undercuts development efforts. As such, I urge you all to support President Lourenço in this fight.

Madam Speaker, We, the current generation must know the battles we are fighting today are no longer on occupation of our territories but occupation of our minds in the name of poverty. We need to explore our potentialities and prospects the same way we did during the days of the

Liberation struggles where the spirit of Pan Africanism and African Unity, united us for a common cause - Freedom. This same spirit must now unite us to find our common solutions to address our common challenges of poverty, insecurity, climate change, debt burdens among others.

The selfless acts of our leaders, their fighting spirit in pursuit of free Africa should be the enduring torch in emancipating Africa from the grips of poverty and darkness of wars and conflicts.

Today, it is all too easy to overlook the significant role that Tanzania and the surrounding region played in supporting Angola, as well as Angola's vital contribution to fostering a truly independent and apartheid-free region. We must not forget the rich history of our collective achievements, driven by a common and just cause.

Now perhaps even more than before our two countries must work together to address the immense challenges of socio-economic development. This task, by its sheer size, requires much great solidarity in terms of vision and unity of purpose. Allow me to emphasize this with a quote from Mwalimu which states that, "Unity will not make us rich, but it can make it difficult for Africa and the African peoples to be disregarded and humiliated."

Madam Speaker,

I am pleased to inform this August body that earlier today I had candid discussion with my brother His Excellency President Lourenco. We both realized the need to revitalize our economic ties to match our political relations. We took stock of the untapped economic opportunities existing in both our countries. We agreed that the Joint Permanent Cooperation Framework established in 1983, which held its first meeting in 1988 and revived in 2024 will be the key platform to guide us on areas and mode of our cooperation.

We underscored that true development of our people means tackling poverty, quality education, better health care systems and promoting socio-economic inclusion, for our populations.

We took note, that Trade flows between our two countries are very minimal with statistics indicating that our trade volume (import and export) has been at an average of USD 2 –3.5 million per year. The investment statistics are also not promising. Since 2014, Angola has invested only USD 490,000 in Tanzania creating 25 employment opportunities, while very few Tanzanians have invested in Angola. You will agree with me that these statistics do not depict the real picture considering the existing areas of complementarities and competencies in development between our two countries.

So, we agreed to create more engagements and opportunities for the Angolan and Tanzanian businessmen and investors.

Nevertheless, I am happy to inform this August House that we witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports of Angola (AIPEX) and Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC). This MoU will play an important role in promoting and facilitating investments between our two countries while taking advantage of the already existing markets of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the SADC Free Trade Area.

Madam Speaker,

Oil and gas sector was another area of discussion, given the fact that Angola is the second richest country in Africa in oil reserves, while Tanzania has the largest gas reserves in Africa but has not been able to fully exploit this potential. These two areas serve as a unique opportunity for our two countries to not only exchange expertise but also share business prospects. This is evident by the fact that most of Tanzania's oil is imported from outside Africa.

Madam Speaker,

Another MoU that was signed this morning was on Defense cooperation. As you are aware both our two countries boast one among

the continents oldest skilled armies, and we both have agreed to cooperate on strategic Defense matters.

Madam Speaker,

At the regional and continental level, we have noted that divided Africa will not be able to claim its rightful place and compete effectively in the global arena. A unified region strengthens collective bargaining power, and collectively solve regional and global challenges.

Madam Speaker,

In our discussions with President Lourenço, we have also agreed to continue working together in the African Union, particularly in the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Free Movement of People; Silencing the Guns by 2030; as well as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Madam Speaker,

Connectivity and connectedness remain a critical factor in integration agenda. In this regard, I commended the Government of Angola for its initiative and leadership in implementing Lobito Corridor project whose objective is to unlock the economic potential of Central and Southern Africa by providing a critical link between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans via Benguela and TAZARA railways.

In addition, following the decision by the Government of Angola to waive tourist visa to Tanzanians last year, this morning I informed my dear Brother of the Government of Tanzania's decision to reciprocate on the exemption of Tourist Visa to the citizens of the Republic of Angola wishing to visit Tanzania. The waiver is expected to promote trade as well as investment and tourist flow between our two countries. In this regard, I also wish to invite tourists from Angola to come to visit our rich and famous touristic attractions such as Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Parks, spice islands of Zanzibar and Mount Kilimanjaro, the roof of Africa, and the highest free standing mountain above sea level in the world, at 5,595 meters.

Madam Speaker,

Peace and security remain a major challenge facing our dear continent, Africa. And I am glad that this country and this Parliament understand the importance of peace and security, and the nexus of these with economic development and prosperity.

It comes as no surprise that Angola is at the forefront in championing peace to neighbouring countries and our region. Not only that Angola participated in restoring the territorial integrity of our common neighbour the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1996 to 1997; and recently chaired the African Union led Mediation Process (Luanda Process); Angola

was in a forefront in the formation of our International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). It is no wonder, my dear brother President Lourenço was recently decorated by the African Union as the “leader for peace and reconciliation.’

But, this role cannot be celebrated without acknowledging the significant role of this Parliament. The Executive branch cannot do much without the political support and budget approval by this august House. I am taking this opportunity to thank you for your support to our region. And I appeal to you the paliarmentarians to stay in course and support your government in this pursuit. Our region is peaceful and stable with few pockets of instability. As Chair of the SADC Organ my appeal to you is to continue supporting your country in this endeavour since it has the much-needed resources, military capabilities and readiness to act decisively and swiftly. We count on your unrelenting support.

Madam Speaker,

With regard to international issues, we have agreed to work together with other members of the international community to implement global agenda, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development initiatives. We have also undertaken to work very closely with all like-minded countries to call for reform of global institutions, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the so-called Bretton

Woods institutions so as to bring a just and fair international order.

Madam Speaker,

Today, Tanzania and Angola stand on the robust shoulders of our forefathers. We, the current regimes hold the power to transform this great history into a future of great promise. Together we must strive to build confident, secure, innovative, and dynamic people. Both our countries are witnessing increasing gender parity, rising educational and health standards, and expanding infrastructure and connectivity, and this is a step in the right direction. As a region, we fought together for political liberation, we should also fight together for economic prosperity.

Madam Speaker;

Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

Let me end my speech to this August Assembly by assuring you that Tanzania attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Angola. In this respect, in order to give practical meaning to what I have told you today, my government intends to review its previous decision of closing the Tanzania Embassy here in Luanda with a view to reopening it again as soon as possible. We believe that this will help to forge closer cooperation and enhance unity between our two peoples and countries.

With these remarks, I once again, thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to address this august Assembly. My gratitude

to President Lourenço for the kind invitation and the exceptional hospitality that enticed my delegation to come back in the near future, for more engagements.

God Bless Africa!

God Bless Angola and Tanzania!

Aluta Continua

Ahsanteni Sana