

ADDRESS BY H.E. BARAKA H. LUVANDA,
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO INDIA WITH CONCURRENT
ACCREDITATION TO NEPAL
AT THE OCCASION OF OFFICIAL OPENING OF
THE HONORARY CONSULATE OF TANZANIA IN NEPAL,
RADISSON HOTEL, KATHMANDU, MONDAY, 2 MARCH 2020

Hon'ble Pradeep Kumar Gyawali,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to propose to you these welcoming remarks.

Honorable Minister, allow me to welcome each and everyone to this brief event. It is for us a joyful occasion we have been looking forward to.

Let me on behalf of my colleagues and friends present here express our heartiest appreciation to you for sharing this occasion with us. We know and are quite aware of the busy schedule of work any Foreign Minister has. But that you would find time to come and grace our event is for us an honour and privilege. Thank you very much, Sir.

Let me also thank our distinguished guests for coming. We are humbled by your presence and indeed we feel indebted. I thank each one of you.

I take this opportunity to also thank our host - Mr. Rajesh Chaudhary for the logistics of this event. I can imagine how difficult it would have been without him. I cannot thank you enough.

Honourable Minister,

I was cautioned about the time allocated for me to speak because of the nature of the event, that is, reception and cocktail dinner. For, it is said that if you speak before people eat, you are accused of keeping them away from their food; and if you speak after they have eaten,

you are accused of giving them indigestion. Both ways, you lose! And it has been confirmed to me that there is a lot of food and not just *momos*.

So Honorable Minister, I will try to cut my losses by confining myself to a few issues that are relevant to this function:

First and foremost, I wish to convey to you the very warm greetings from His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of Tanzania to Her Excellency the President and to the People of Nepal and also from your counterpart the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania, Honorable Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi.

Secondly, I wish on behalf of the Government of Tanzania to express our great satisfaction on the bilateral relations with Nepal which were established way back in 1975. Throughout the years, we have continued to work together and support each other on various bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common concern.

It is, of course, heartening that we (Nepal and Tanzania) see eye to eye in many multilateral groupings and speak with one voice in the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Least Developed Countries, the Group 77 and the recently established *Scaling Up Nutrition* (SUN) Movement – a movement that seeks to eliminate malnutrition by 2030, which held its global meeting here in Kathmandu in November last year. I could go on and on.

But the appeal that my government has instructed me to make to you today is that of scaling up these relations to a higher level. And to start with, I have been directed to suggest that we should consider having **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** in such areas as: (i). Political consultations; (ii). Waiver of Visa for Diplomatic and Service Passports, to begin with (iii). Bilateral Air Services, whereby we will enable the connectivity of Air Tanzania, which currently operates between Dar es Salaam and Bombay with Nepal Airline which operates between Kathmandu and Bombay (iv). Tourism, and (v). Agriculture, to name but just a few.

Thirdly, I have been asked to convey the appreciation of the Government of Tanzania to you personally and. to the Government of Nepal for having finally approved the Honorary

Consul for Tanzania in Nepal in the name of **Rajesh Chaudhary**. It has a long process but worth undertaking. I especially thank him for having persisted and for his assistance on logistics during my first visit in Kathmandu and this time and also for similar assistance to the Tanzania delegation during the SUN Global meeting in November last year.

And I would like to particularly thank him for organizing such a very productive exchange I had yesterday with the Executive Committee of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce. Again, I would like to thank him for arranging such a productive meeting with the Minister of Tourism this afternoon. Thank you very much, Rajesh.

I will be asking you to come and join us in the Dais after I conclude my remarks. But allow me to congratulate you immensely for this honour and privilege and assure you of my unflinching support in this position as Honorary Consul of the United Republic of Tanzania to Nepal. I very much look forward to working closely with you and your team to scale up the bilateral engagements between Nepal and Tanzania.

And lastly, I wish to welcome each and everyone present here today to visit Tanzania to taste the variety of tourism attractions that exist in abundance. You will from now be able to access information about those attractions and also about trade, business and investment opportunities through our Honorary Consulate right here in Kathmandu or through our Mission in New Delhi.

Needless to say, Tanzania has been voted many times as the best wildlife and beach destination with the recent such accolade was given to us by “*Outlook Traveller*” in New Delhi on **22 February 2020**. So, ladies and gentlemen please come and enjoy all these wildlife attractions and many other tourist attractions that exist in abundance in Tanzania. We will play a 10 minutes video just to add flavour of what I have just described to

I should now my brief remarks and welcome Mr. Chaudhary to come forward so that we can proceed with the remainder of the programme, starting with the short video.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!

Dhanyavad!