

THE FIRST EVER TANZANIAN PROFESSIONALS DIASPORA SUMMIT 2009 ON EMPOWERMENT

“Nyumbani Ni Nyumbani - 2009”

Summit Theme:

Practical Enhancement of Economic Empowerment for Tanzanians

Summit Date and Venue:

Friday 18th December 2009; Golden Tulip Hotel; Dar Es Salaam

Background

Tanzania Professionals Network (TPN) is a registered Tanzanian non governmental institution whose members come from diverse professional disciplines located both within and outside United Republic of Tanzania borders. The main objective of the body is to supplement and enforce various government initiatives that seek and address the need of Tanzanians to own their economy and be determinant force on its prosperity. Major economic ventures should be run by mainly Tanzanians on their own investments or in partnership with foreign investors or under some kind of fair and unconditioned support from development partners. TPN has health partnership with various similar societies, Government and its institutions and foreign Tanzania Diaspora various associations and organizations. With the fact that TPN has members across various institutions both private and public joined by their common aspirations, evolved the idea of developing a practical and formal partnership between local citizens and their Diaspora towards addressing Tanzanian development achievements equally to be shared and enjoyed by all Tanzanians

The Context

Tanzania is endowed with potential human and natural resources that, if properly exploited and managed, could usher the country into rapid economic growth and sustainable development. However, despite the country being seen to be achieving steady statistical economic growth, the majority of Tanzanians are largely disenfranchised from the economy with many of them living in poverty and uncertain future. With all the abundant natural resources that the country is endowed – and the statistical growth that the country is said to be achieving - Tanzania is still among the poorest countries in the world and whose economy is heavily dependent on donor funding.

This situation is contrary to the dreams and determination of all Tanzanians - who envisaged building a country where the people of this country will have both political and economic freedom and empowerment. The determination to bring about economic empowerment for the people – especially the urban and rural poor – was aimed at building an economy that will be mainly Tanzanian in nature and character. For, in every country the economy is primarily rooted in cultural-economic set-up and specific

historical conditions of that country. That is why there is Chinese, Japanese, US, and British economies – just mention a few – which are economies which are embedded in those countries' cultural-economic and historical contexts.

In attempt to embed our economy in our cultural-economic and historical conditions – an in order to enable the people own, control, and build an economy that was Tanzanian in nature and character (socialism and self-reliance) - we enshrined our determination in the Arusha Declaration in 1967. In this declaration we made it clear that economic enfranchisement of Tanzanians was paramount and that we wanted to achieve this goal by building an egalitarian society to defeat poverty, illiteracy, diseases, inequality between men and women and the rich and poor.

Current Situation and Challenges

The current situation is contrary to the cherished dreams and expectations we had at independence and during the first phase government. Having abandoned our determination to empower Tanzanians economically in the 1980s - and acquiesced to external pressure to adopt western capitalism which is alien to our cultural-economic set-up, the drive towards economic empowerment of the people seems to have been stalled. Today, many indigenous Tanzanians are being economically disenfranchised with many of them being forced to sell land and their assets to foreign and local investors. The number of indigenous Tanzanians who are having access to the economy is relatively small. Those who are having access to the economy are the privileged few. Self-employed Tanzanian professionals and individuals who want to establish their own businesses are facing difficulty conditions and many of them are forced to abandon their initiatives. Consequently, the rate of unemployment and poverty is increasing rapidly while lack of funding to self-employment initiatives and indigenous entrepreneurship has resulted into high waves of crime, armed robbery, drug and human trafficking, prostitution, and the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic.

At the national level, the pace of uneven development is alarming. The dichotomy between the urban and rural as well as between and within regions and districts is widening. The vision enshrined in MKUKUTA seems to be another “White Paper” that has come to pass. There is a lack of a clearly-defined and comprehensive policy of industrialization and redressing regional disparities. It is clear that our regions are experiencing difficult times of economic transition, yet the people have shown the resiliency and creativity characteristic of Tanzanians through many cycles of structural adjustment programmes that have disenfranchised the rural and urban poor.

Overall, rural areas are still marginalized, backward and that the natural and human resources in these areas are not seen by both local and foreign investors as the spine of the economy. Modernization seems to be concentrated in urban areas with rural areas being starved of basic facilities and services that are necessary for meaningful development to take place. Thus, professional Tanzanians, entrepreneurs who are based in rural and underdeveloped areas are forced to flock into urban areas to seek greener pastures for survival and prosperity. Tanzania Diasporas with their financial power of remittances and

local investors prefer to invest in urban-based ventures than in rural economies. Very few of them are investing in rural areas in sectors like agriculture, education, manufacturing, and tourism. This situation deprives our regions and rural areas of potential forces of local economic development and in turn leads to unprecedented rural-urban migration. No wonder today our cities and towns are inundated by rapid urban population increase, congestions, poor housing and shortages caused by unrealistic high prices of land, unplanned urban development, and growth of slums that are hives of crimes and illegal activities.

Key Problems in Attaining Economic Empowerment

1. Entrepreneurship Skills and Creativity in Establishing Feasible Projects
2. Securing Capital or Funding for the Established Projects
3. Getting Strong and Committed Partners to work together
4. Sales and Market Networking for the Products and Services of the established Projects
5. Challenges in Securing Employment
6. Minimizing the spread of HIV/AIDS

The Tanzania Diaspora Summit

There are been various developments initiatives tailored to Tanzanians developments perspectives. TPN like many other non governmental organizations represents their members interest in addressing various issues with interests to their members or general public. These initiatives can be in parallel with Government initiative. They can as well be in support or even in counter efforts as to what they believe is the act of the Government against its citizen.

TPN with other stake holders are organizing the summit in to address from another angle the support to the governments initiatives towards developments of the country. It's the responsibility of the Tanzanians to collectively come up together and organise themselves for the developments of their country. It's the Tanzanians right WHICH should be practised and the Government is their to support, guide and assist all Tanzanians to execute their responsibility. If this responsibility is not executed by Tanzanians some smart people can come in our country and take the advantage with or without collaborating few of us on the expense of all majority Tanzanians.

The summit will provide a first ever opportunity that Tanzanians both local and Diaspora, Government officials, public and private sectors, development partners and other stake holders come together and discuss the true path of their country prosperity, developments and increased participation and ownership of their economy.

The Summit will see some other important support, contribution and inputs towards Tanzanians initiatives towards Millennium development goals achievements set year 2025. This is reflected in trend towards growth in high-tech industries including information technology, the demand for highly-skilled labor. need for Tanzanians coming up more in their economy driving it and its destiny, a point where the knowledge economy is poised to become the key driver for economic development and much more. It will unveil Tanzania's investment opportunities, challenges and the role Tanzanians in the Diaspora should play.

The Summit will be the pace-maker of the regeneration of our country and its Diaspora across the globe. Its overall concern is to understand the past, reflect on the present, and to consider the speedy development of our country and its Diaspora. It marks a significant advance in the participation of the Tanzanians Diaspora in the reconstruction and development of our country economy, and will call for attractive socio economical policies targeting both local and Diaspora greater participation on future economic ownership and development of our country.

Objectives of the Summit

1. To bring together Tanzanian professionals, Diasporas, academia, private and public business associations to discuss how to engage the government, local and foreign investors, donors, and financial facilitator in supporting home-grown development as a necessary condition for building stable and sustainable economic development
2. To highlight the unique assets and competitive advantages of Tanzania's human and natural resources and to identify specific recommendations to the government, local and foreign investors, donors, and banks to advance an all inclusive and gender sensitive economic enfranchisement policy
3. To forge partnership between TPN, academia, and Tanzanian Diasporas as forum that advocates for economic empowerment of Tanzanians
4. Share knowledge and best In this regard, there could be exchange of professionals, including retirees;
5. Promote greater trade and investment between Tanzanians and the Diaspora through joint organisation of trade fairs, investors fora, and enhanced exchange of information on business and investment; to the increase in remittances from Diaspora to finance investment and development projects in our Country
6. Promote the creation of the Special Investment Bank / Fund by contributing to its share capital once established as well as to share experiences on best practices in the financing of projects.
7. To forge a common cooperate by taking common positions during various national economic or business interests for the better of Tanzanian as whole;
8. Strengthen cooperation between Tanzanian Governments and its institutions and those in the Diaspora. Influence the Government create a favorable conditions to attract returns and investment in the country by Diaspora
9. Tap on the skills and experiences of the Diaspora by engaging them in consultancy work, which in most cases is done by the so called international experts expensively
10. Advocate Government devise deliberate policies and develop co-operation programs aimed at affording Tanzanians and the Diaspora share their inputs and advice to various issues of national interest.

Summit Rationale

Tanzanian professionals, academia and Diasporas are an important section of the Tanzanian elite or intelligentsia class that has an historical role to play in the transformation of our country. As class that has a privileged position to dialogue with both the government and investors and donors one the one hand,

and with the people on the other hand – we should seek to underscore the need for policies that facilitate economic enfranchisement of Tanzanians.

At the summit we intend to posit that long-term success require local and regional approaches to build the economy from within, and a public policy platform that focuses on economic and social empowerment of the people through the provision of equal and gender sensitive opportunities. The success for rural and deprived urban areas in the national and global market place demands a new paradigm for building the economy. Therefore our focus should be on fostering local entrepreneurship - especially among the youth and women groups and those in emerging and potential small and medium enterprises in rural and urban areas. We should endeavour to see that there is strong collaboration across all sectors so that there is effective leveraging of scarce resources, targeted investment, and practical policies that “make sense” in each of our diverse urban and rural areas. The adage is that healthy and vital rural and urban economies are essential to the overall vitality and competitiveness of the economy.

Significance

Economic empowerment of the people is an important condition for the present and future of this country. Experience of lack of serious efforts to empower the people in other countries (South Africa) have resulted into deep resentment among the people since it is only the few who have benefited at the expense of the majority. The consequence of such a situation is increased criminal activities and deep poverty.

Tanzania has time to learn from such situations and take appropriate action. Thus, we want to emphasize that the government, local and foreign investors, and donors address this issue seriously. We want to see Tanzanian professionals, academics, and Diasporas are being given prominent recognition and role in designing and running development and investments projects that aim at empowering all Tanzanians.

As Tanzanians – and sons and daughters of this country – we are aware of our historical role in assisting our rural and urban communities on how to develop both local entrepreneurial skills and products and services that capitalize on their competitive advantage - their close relationship with the land, natural resources, cultural diversity and dynamism. This will result in and continue to drive the diversification of rural and urban economies.

Expected Impact

1. A strong partnership established between the TPN, Diasporas, academia, and business associations
2. An avenue for regular dialogue between TPN, Diasporas, academia, and business associations on the one hand and the government, donors, and financial institutions
3. Understanding of the global-wide change and development profession, including the roles of consultants, change agents, educators, non-profit administrators, and corporate executives
4. Consulting and facilitation with various stakeholders in organizational change and community development projects

5. Understanding of the dynamics of organizational change and community development initiatives: in particular, innovation diffusion, communication, adaptive leadership, knowledge management, problem solving, and technology transfer.
6. Create favourable conditions to allow for the return of Tanzanian in the Diaspora
7. Establish effective ways and means of channelling remittances to Africa at minimum cost
8. Tap on the skills and experiences of the Diaspora by engaging them in consultancy work, which in most cases is done by the so called international experts
9. Devise deliberate policies and develop co-operation programmes aimed at the Diaspora.

Sectorial section of the economy of much interest

The summit will touch various sectors of our economy such as following.

- 1 ICT
- 2 Education and training
- 3 Banking and Financial Services
- 4 Agriculture
- 5 Banking and Financial Services
- 6 Health & Medical Services
- 7 Manufacturing/mining
- 8 Power geNeration
- 9 InFrastructure
- 10 Tourism

Key speakers:

Reputable and outstanding Speakers to be announced later will be drawn from Government; Universities; Private Sectors; NGO and Abroad

Registration:

As Per Diaspora Summit Announcement. Send your request to the: president@tpn.co.tz

Organisers:

Tanzania Professionals Network - TPN; Commission For Science and Technology – COSTECH; University of Dar Es Salaam – Convocation; Open University of Tanzania – OUT and the Government of Tanzania

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Opening Ceremony from 8.00 PAM

- Registration
- Inaugural Session (TPN Chairperson) - 9.30 AM
- Welcome Remarks (TPN Matron) - 9.45 AM
- Keynote Address Chief Guest (HE) – 10.00 AM
- There will be a Closing Dinner

Morning and Afternoon

1. Professionals & Diaspora contribution to Tanzania Economic Development
2. Financial Services and the Diaspora
3. Investment Opportunities for the youth
4. Entrepreneurship Skills and Creativity in Establishing Feasible Projects
5. Securing Capital or Funding for the Established Projects
6. Getting Strong and Committed Partners to work together
7. Sales and Market Networking for the Products and Services of the established Projects
8. Challenges in Securing Employment
9. Role of NGO's in Economic Empowerment