

**CLOSING REMARKS BY HON. ZAKIA HAMDANI MEGHJI -  
(MP) MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM  
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TANZANIA  
TOURISM INVESTMENT FORUM  
23 OCTOBER 2002**

**Your Excellency Amani Abeid Karume – President of the  
Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar,  
Hon. Abood Mohamed Abood – Minister of Tourism, Trade, Industry  
and Marketing of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar,  
Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,  
Honourable Daniel Ole Njoolay Regional Commissioner Arusha  
Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On the very outset allow me on your behalf to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. President Amani Abeid Karume for having accepted our invitation to come and close this very important Forum on the Tourism sector in our country. We say Karibu Sana.

This forum has brought together 278 participants from the United States, Europe, Middle and Far East, Africa and many local participants.

Secondly I would like once again to thank all our sponsors who have contributed in one way or another to the success of this Forum.

Tourism is a major economic sector in Tanzania. It is also a sector that is destined to grow and expand further. At a conservative annual growth rate of 7 percent over the next decade we would be able to reach the one-million visitors target set by the year 2010.

**Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In order to achieve this target the industry needs proper planning and an articulate Programme of Action which would detail all sets of implementation schedules be it on infrastructure development, new investments, financing, institutional framework, capacity building, human resources development etc. Above all it needs a well-coordinated approach on promotion and marketing in our traditional markets and also finding new tourism markets.

**Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The last two days have been very intense, interesting and informative. The discussion was open and participants raised issues gearing towards strengthening tourism opportunities. I want to stress now that this is not the end of our process to encourage investment in tourism in Tanzania. Instead, it is only the beginning. As you are aware, this process is being driven by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism together with the investment authorities of Tanzania and Zanzibar. These bodies will continue to drive a process to follow up on the interest expressed here, and the contacts made, and their partners have made commitments to continue their support for the process.

After this forum some of the participants will tour different parts of Tanzania mainland and also to Zanzibar, to taste what we have to offer in as far as tourism opportunities is concerned.

**A few specifics:**

- 1 As you heard the master plan to guide tourism development is now completed, and we will be discussing now with the EU on issues related to its implementation.
- 2 We will be following up with all investors on the interest which they have expressed here. These investors will be needing further information and support to make their investments in the months

and even years to come. The Tourism Division of my ministry will be working closely with the Tanzania Investment Center and the other investment authorities to make investments discussed here a reality.

- 3 We have discussed an enormous amount of information here over the last two days. Much of this material is the culmination of months and years of work. This is a continuous process and a lot is taking place, in as far as institutional changes, macro-economic and sectoral policy issues, training, marketing as clearly alluded to by H.E. President Benjamin William Mkapa in his Keynote address yesterday. This valuable information will be collected and placed on a special web site so that it is available to both locals and foreign investors as they need it to develop their business plans.
- 4 This event has served as an opportunity to alert investors both inside and outside the country that Tanzania is serious about achieving investments in tourism. Many new ideas and proposals of investment opportunities seeking partners have been aired. We will be developing a mechanism to inform prospective investors about new tourist investment opportunities. MIGA have already indicated that they will help us in establishing our information on the web, and in establishing an investment opportunity information service.
- 5 While we have much to be proud of in the strides which have been made to improve our investment environment, we must acknowledge that much remains to be done in this area. My Ministry is working with the private sector to find solutions to the problems which still remain and we will be making further progress in this area.
- 6 Finally there is much work to be done in improving the capacity of local Tanzanians to service this important industry. A good start in this process was made at the very encouraging local tourism investors forum which we held earlier this month. We will continue to seek ways to improve training, access to finance, and other assistance which local businesses need to enter and serve our high quality tourism market.

**Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

I should like to conclude by once again thanking you for coming to this Forum.

It is now my distinct honor and privilege to welcome H.E. President Amani Abeid Karume to address you.

I thank you for your attention.