

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON. ZAKIA HAMDANI MEGHJI (MP),
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM AT THE
OPENING OF THE TANZANIA TOURISM INVESTMENT FORUM,
HELD AT THE AICC-ARUSHA, 22-24 OCTOBER 2002.**

**Your Excellency, President, Benjamin William Mkapa,
Honourable Ministers
Excellencies Ambassadors and Members of Diplomatic Corps.
Dr. Dawid Devillier, WTO Deputy Secretary General,
Programme Manager for MIGA Africa Dr. Ken Kwaku,
Distinguished Forum Participants
Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is indeed a great honour for us to be here in this auspicious occasion of international investors forum today. My duty this morning is to welcome our chief Guest, H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

At the very out set, I wish to thank all the participants from USA, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Far East and Africa, for having responded positively to our invitation to participate in this important event of the tourism industry in our country.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the organisers of this important forum, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA-World Bank), Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA) and the Tourism Confederation of Tanzania, for having agreed to organize this workshop in collaboration with my Ministry.

Your Excellency, President Mkapa,

As you may be aware, the aim and objective of this forum is to exploit investment opportunities in tourism in Tanzania and to expose our tourist attractions to these potential investors. This forum also comes after the Local Investors Forum held on the 23 September, 2002 in which issues relating to tourism development were discussed and recommendations made. The 23rd September Forum set the stage for this Forum today.

Your Excellency,

Tourism is a very important pillar of the Tanzanian economy and its importance will increase in the next century. Without the efforts of private and public sector invest in destination Tanzania, its importance will not be sustainable. This congress has brought together tourism investors to see how best is Tanzania suited for tourism investment. The facts on this will be revealed during the paper presentation, discussions and networking while in Tanzania.

Your Excellency,

It is our expectations that this forum will be effective and followed by the return of many investors who would like to invest in the tourism sector in Tanzania.

Your Excellency,

It is now my honour and privilege to welcome Your Excellency to open the forum.