

Promoting Intra-African Trade and Investment



1st UNLOCKING AFRICAN MARKETS
Investment Symposium

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY HON. AMBASSADOR AMINA
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ZANZIBAR.**



**AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE “UNLOCKING
AFRICAN MARKETS” SYMPOSIUM IN KIMBERLEY,
SOUTH AFRICA**

3RD NOVEMBER 2016

Business Representatives of the Northern Cape Province

Representatives of other organizations

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here at this auspicious occasion to deliver a keynote speech on this important subject matter on **“Unlocking African Markets”** in Kimberley today. I wish from the outset to express my profound appreciation and gratitude for the efforts taken by the organizing team in the preparation of this

symposium which would be the launching of many more such opportunities to discuss the importance of unlocking markets in Africa.

I understand that your tireless efforts and invaluable input in preparation of this symposium would be very instrumental in successfully accomplishing this important task.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Trade and Investment sectors are important and essential ingredients in economic development and poverty reduction. The sectors encompass large part of private sector that contributes much to our economic and social development through employment creation as well as government revenue contribution. The contribution of these ingredients to economic development is well stipulated in our National Development Plans.

It is widely accepted that the single most important thing that distinguishes rich countries from poor ones is basically their higher capabilities in manufacturing where productivity is generally higher and most importantly where productivity tends to grow faster than agriculture and services sectors.

In recognition, of the need for higher economic growth and creation of more employment opportunities, the Government of United Republic of Tanzania as well as the Revolutionary of Government of Zanzibar have embarked on comprehensive industrialization drive for the country. Numerous efforts and measures have been taken to enhance competitiveness and create conducive business environment to encourage growth of small, medium and large enterprises.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tanzania has been implementing economic reforms to boost local and foreign private investment, as one of the pre-requisites for attainment of Vision 2025. The target of the reforms has been to improve business and investment climate resulting into increased investor appetite for the numerous investment opportunities available in Tanzania.

In recent years, notable improvements have been registered in the fundamental infrastructures such as the road networks, reliable power supply and extension of the runways at the airports, more efficient operations and cargo handling equipment at our ports. In addition, the government offers an attractive incentive package that are set to attract more trade and investment especially for industrial development.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Tanzania and South Africa has a long relationship on the political and economic areas that need to be strengthened by expanding trade and investment between the two countries. At the same time, it is important to note for those who are interested in cementing the relationship further especially for the Northern Cape Province; Tanzania is endowed with abundant natural resources, its strategic geographical location, and decades of political stability makes the country an attractive and viable investment destination. On the economic side, the country has been registering a growth rate of 7% for the past five years which is a valuable indicator of stable economic growth that has potential to accommodate aspiring businesses. The Government in its continued efforts is projecting a growth rate of 7.2percent in 2017.

Trade balance which donates both the export and import side of the trade as grown to reach US\$ 679 and US\$ 896.40 million respectively. It has been achieved through the trade liberalization and export diversification efforts.

The Government is also implementing the roadmap for improvement of business environment and investment climate. Furthermore, the Government is progressively putting in place robust institutions and an enabling legal framework for investment promotion and facilitation, which includes institutions such as Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) in Mainland-Tanzania, Export Processing Zones Authority as well as Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA) in Zanzibar.

The Government welcomes investors interested in assisting of setting up environmental friendly projects which would be of priority in the following types of industry:

- Agro-based industries,
- Value addition of Agricultural products, including seaweed and spices
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceutical
- Packaging (for supporting producers of other goods)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tourism

Tanzania is blessed with diverse species of flora and fauna. The country is recognized globally as a beautiful country because of its diverse attractions ranging from nature, scenery and cultures that contributes to its uniqueness. Since independence, Tanzania has made significant progress in development of tourism sector. Much tourism and hospitality infrastructure has been refurbished and upgraded to meet international standards. In addition to this, several new hotels have been built, while many more are still under construction. The presence of these hotels contributes to the development of Tanzania's economy and in turn, adds to the country's increasing global appeal as a preferred holiday destination.

Air transportation in Tanzania has recently received a major boost from the expansion of runways as well as the upgrade of air passenger services at several airports throughout the country. The refurbishment of airports and the introduction of new passenger transport services have led new foreign and international air carriers to consider Tanzania as a potentially beneficial new destination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Road network and connectivity with neighbouring countries and within the country has improved significantly. The improvements provide comfort and convenience to tour operators and tourists who are able to explore many tourist attractions that enhance their experience at destination Tanzania. I would like to take this precious opportunity to invite South African investors to invest in the Tourism sector in Tanzania.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agriculture

Agriculture in Tanzania is the most important sector in the national economy. The sector contributes about 50% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides employment for over 80% of the working population. The agricultural sector is also the major source of food for the population and for raw materials for industrial sector.

Our vision is to have an agricultural sector that by the year 2025 is modernized, commercial, highly productive and profitable, and that utilizes natural resources in an overall sustainable manner, and acts as an effective basis for inter sectoral linkages. In order to support the Agricultural the government has put into place several national policies and strategies which encourage private sector to participate in this sector. Investments in agriculture can unlock untold prosperity in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agribusiness investment in Tanzania is vital and very much welcomed. We look forward to establish partnership that would lead to the use of best practices for the benefit of the two countries. There is a lot to learnt from South Africa in this sector which would only lead to a win-win situation. Trading between African countries is crucial if we want to bridge the gap of regional integration and become reliant on intra trade that would assist the continent to push its economic stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Unlocking African market that is what we are working on that requires further building institutions that can take in the economic ambition that Africa has. What are the opportunities for cross-border trade in Africa and why are these opportunities not being fully exploited should be amongst the areas to be looked upon during the meeting. There are number of questions that this forum could seek to address such as:

- (i) How can African countries enhance implementation of existing regional agreements to boost intra-African trade?
- (ii) What factors limit the capacity of African enterprises to produce goods and services that are competitive in export markets?
- (iii) How can African countries ensure that intra-African trade is driven primarily by national and regional entrepreneurs to maximize benefits for Africans?

(iv) How can the benefits of regional trade be widely spread and distributed across countries?

(v) Are there external factors inhibiting intra-African trade and how can development partners contribute to unlocking the trade potential of Africa?

The main message of the forum is to unlock African market that opens doors for intra-African trade that presents opportunities for sustained growth and development in Africa, however to seize such opportunities requires private sector dynamic to be unlocked and a development-based approach for integration to be adopted.

We take particular pride in the breadth and depth of our partnership” and we are convinced that the growth of our two economies will be mutually beneficial.”

Finally, I take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of bringing all of us together and being given the opportunity to discuss amongst each other on how we can take forward this subject matter and unlocking our markets.

THANK YOU