



**REMARKS FOR HON. FATMA A. MWASSA, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
FOR TABORA, DURING TABORA INVESTMENT FORUM, 19TH JULY, 2013**

**H.E. Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic
of Tanzania,
*Honourable Dr. Mary Michael Nagu, MP – Minister of State,
(Investment and Empowerment)***

***Honourable John Samwel Sitta, MP – Minister for East Africa
Cooperation & Chair of the Organizing Committee.***

***Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament of the United
Republic of Tanzania***

***Honourable High Commissioners and Ambassadors from Invited
Diplomatic Missions,***

***Honourable Ms. Sari Laaksonen, Commercial Secretary for Trade and
Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. Our fellow Tabora
partners in the project: Regional Partnership to Promote Trade and
Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa.***

***Honourable Dr. Moumié Maoulidi, Associate Director, Millennium
Cities Initiative (MCI), and Honourable Dr. Karin Millett, Senior
Researcher, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York, Our
fellow Tabora Regional Investment Project Partners,***

Members of Business Community from Tanzania and the Outside World,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel greatly honoured and privileged to have the opportunity to address you on the occasion of this historic event, the first “Tabora Investment Forum” , addressing Tabora Regional Business and Investment.

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Region and Municipality of Tabora, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to the Government of Finland for the financial support provided to Tabora under the Regional Partnership to Promote Trade and Investment in Sub- Saharan Africa, and our appreciation to the Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI) for providing the expertise to implement this project in Tabora.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all our guests for attending this forum in order to explore existing investment and trade opportunities in Tabora.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Tabora has a rich history as the railway hub and centre of commerce, with well-developed agriculture and light industry. It recognizes the importance of education, with a large number of schools providing good-quality education in many areas, such as agriculture, commerce, administration, and so on. The Beekeeping College is an example of one of the specialized institutions that is directly intended to support a sector with high potential for further

development, i.e., honey production and processing as well as related products, such as beeswax and royal jelly.

Infrastructure deficits in Tabora have led to its full potential for manufacturing and trading not being fully achieved; however, steps have been taken to improve the situation. Roads are being built and improved, and the airport has been refurbished. Flights are now on a reliable schedule.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Tabora in cooperation with the Earth Institute (under which the Millennium Cities Initiative also falls), also is proud to have access to the the Millennium Villages Programme, which has been very successful, improving the livelihoods of many people in the Mbola Village and providing an example to others. Indeed, the farm to market linkages between the Village and the Municipality of Tabora is also a key element in developing the local value chain for the agricultural product and agribusiness.

Under the Regional Partnership project, the following initiatives were undertaken:

1. Specific investment opportunities were identified and relevant, detailed information prepared for potential investors
2. Training of local teams in how to identify and target potential investors, but most importantly how to provide them with good-quality support, not only at the beginning stages of the investment process but also later, when they are established
3. Development of marketing materials (a comprehensive investment guide, as well as promotional brochures) and a new Website to showcase Tabora and its opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are realistic in Tabora. We know that Rome was not built in one day and that it will take time to fully achieve our goals of attracting the number of new investors that we know will find value in what Tabora has to offer, which is excellent opportunities to establish new businesses and the chance to do so in an area of the country that offers high quality of life, e.g., a beautiful climate, cultural and historic assets and many natural endowments.

Thus, today is the start, not the end, of a process that will see our Region taking a strong proactive role to helping companies establish a presence and prosper in our area. In this context, regional and District authorities are ready to support anyone who wishes to study potential opportunities or already has an idea on a particular investment project.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

So I warmly welcome you and your business to Tabora. There are unlimited investment and business opportunities which you are invited to explore. I know some of you are interested to invest in agriculture and agro-processing. Tabora has conducive weather for the growth of a variety crops such as sunflowers, groundnuts, cotton, tobacco, maize and rice. In Tabora we have huge potential for sunflower and groundnuts farming and edible oil production. The land is there and the market is there.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Manufacturing is another area I want you take interest in. Tabora offers big opportunities. As you might have already heard, there are abundant natural resources in Tabora such as, cotton for textile and ginnery, miombo woodlands for hardwoods, as well as bee keeping and honey processing, so there are plenty of raw materials. Please come, we will facilitate you to set up manufacturing plants using plenty of local raw materials available in the Region.

There is also the service sector particularly ICT which is among the fast-growing sectors in Tanzania. There are unlimited investment opportunities in this area with prospects of a growing regional market. Please come; take advantage of this. We know you have the technology to compete profitably.

But for those of you who interested in minerals, investment opportunities exist in the mining sector. We have gold, diamonds, and dimension stones to mention only a few. Depending on your interest, you can choose where to invest and we will be more than happy to facilitate you to achieve your investment aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Tabora is a gateway to three landlocked countries in Eastern and Central Africa. such as Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi and is the gateway to the Lake Zone and western regions. Investing

in Tabora therefore gives you the advantage and opportunity to access markets in all these regions and countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me conclude by saying the following. First, Tabora is ready to do business with you; our doors are wide open. Secondly, we have everything that you need to invest in Tabora; conducive business environment, political and macroeconomic stability, a facilitative government, abundant natural resources, a sizeable and captive market, unique geographical location and so on. I can hardly exhaust the list.

On our part we talk business and we mean business. So, I look forward to welcoming you investing in Tabora.

I thank you for your kind attention.