



**REMARKS FOR H.E. DR. MOHAMED GHARIB BILAL,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,  
DURING TABORA REGIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM, 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2013**

***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 Fatma Abubakar Mwassa, Regional Commissioner and Co-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 Regional Partnership to Promote Trade and Investment in Sub-Saharan African,***

***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 thank you, most sincerely, for affording me this rare opportunity of addressing this first ever Tabora Regional Business and Investment Forum. I thank the Tabora Regional Government, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the Millennium City Initiative (MCI) for spearheading the preparation of this one-of-its kind Investment Forum. They have performed an excellent job in putting together all the achievements we are witnessing here today.

The Government appreciates also the efforts of MCI, the Government of Finland, and, of course, the Region and Municipality of Tabora and fully supports their efforts to attract more private sector investment.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I also wish to thank the Representatives of Diplomatic Missions, our development partners, Multinational Agencies, and more importantly the Private sector and the Business Communities of both Tanzania and

other parts of the world, for accepting our invitation to attend this Forum. I heartily welcome them to Tanzania and particularly to Invest in Tabora.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The economic reforms implemented in Tanzania have generated strong macroeconomic performance over the last ten years. There has been a rapid real GDP growth, low inflation and a stable foreign exchange position. The Tanzanian economy is growing (almost 7% last year, 7% expected for this year). There are many positive developments such as the discovery of gas, oil, the growth of the communications sector and financial services.

The Government is adopting policies to improve infrastructure, including the upgrading of the port of Dar es Salaam and the development of the port at Bagomoyo, which has the potential to become a major hub for economic development in East Africa. Upgrading of railways and roads are also important items on the infrastructure development agenda.

These infrastructure upgrades will reduce transportation costs and stimulate economic growth. They will also be important in facilitating the increased tourism that is expected as the global recession seems to be turning to some level of recovery in many economies.

The Government of Tanzania would like to encourage development to spread to other parts of the country, not just the coast (gas) and the

north (tourism) but also to western part Tanzania (bee keeping, agro processing, and light industry).

Tabora is one of the promising regions in western Tanzania, as it is located on the crossroads of the main railway lines connecting Dar es Salaam on the coast with Lake Tanganyika and Lake Victoria in the interior. Both its location and rapidly improving road and railway infrastructure make Tabora a good place for investment, as it is expected to grow into the economic hub of western Tanzania, with access to markets in adjacent parts of D.R. Congo, Zambia, Burundi, and Rwanda.

The Government will, through its responsible bodies such as TIC and EPZA provide full support to companies investing in Tabora.

***Your Excellency,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The pro investment attitude by Government is clearly demonstrated by the innovative investment legislation, the increasing number of foreign direct investments in the country and economic and structural reforms that have led to substantial progress in establishing a functioning market economy.

The Government has undertaken a number of policy interventions. The recently approved Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy and legislation calls for government and private partnership to effectively create a relationship that can enhance economic development in the country.

Tanzania offers a well-balanced and competitive package of fiscal and non fiscal incentives. Aiming at providing a competitive fiscal regime on foreign trade, Tanzania has signed treaties against double taxation with Denmark, India, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Finland.

Tanzania is a signatory of several multilateral and bilateral agreements on protection and promotion of foreign investment. Among other international agreements and membership, Tanzania is a member of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

## **Markets**

Tanzania offers a sizeable domestic market and a huge regional market of more than 300 million people within the East African Community

(EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) of which the country is a member. The ongoing process of merging EAC, SADC and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) into one trading block will further expand regional market opportunities. The Country also enjoys access to export markets through different preferential arrangements such as AGOA with the USA, EBA with the European Union – as well as with China through FOCAC, India through Indo-Africa Partnership and Japan through TICAD.

***Your Excellency,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

***Stable investment policy and “one stop facilitative centres.***

Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA) and Export Processing Zone (EPZA) coordinate, encourage, promote and facilitate all investments in Tanzania. At the local level, Tabora is committed to providing facilitation services for interested investors and working with TIC to help investors get established.

Since 2002 Tanzania has established the Tanzania National Business Council which is the Lead Dialogue Institution where Government interact with diverse stakeholder representatives from the Private Sector for dialogue on strategic issues related to the investment process and business environment in Tanzania.

***The Council (TNBC) has 50 percent members from the Private sector and 50 percent members from the Government.*** The Council is chaired by the President of Tanzania. The President's commitment to transparency manifests itself in the workings of the Roundtables such as the local Investor's Round Table (LIRT), International Investor's Roundtable (IIRT) and the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Roundtable where the President meets Private Sector representatives on a regular basis to discuss specific issues aimed at improving Tanzania's business competitiveness.

### ***Stable macroeconomic performance and fiscal regime***

Tanzania had been carrying out successful economic and structural reforms, which have improved economic performance and sustained growth. These achievements are based on solid foundations of political and economic reform undertaken by the Government since 1986,

placing Tanzania in a position where a prolonged period of high GDP growth rates has been observed.

### ***Peace and stability***

Tanzania is free of ideological confrontations, ethnic problems and labour disputes. It is a centre of economic and political stability in Sub Saharan Africa. Multi party democracy adopted in 1992 has not disturbed the peaceful political climate of the country. The political scene is characterised by parliamentary democracy and public consensus on key social and economic priorities.

***Your Excellency,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Opportunities for investment in Tabora are immense, including hotels construction, leisure parks golf courses, conference tourism, air/ground transport, wildlife farming, tour operations, trophy hunting, development of eco-tourism facilities, cultural and historical sites, just to mention a few. The Government therefore encourages all forms of investment in these areas.

***Infrastructure***



Opportunities in infrastructure investment are wide ranging from the building of highways, bridges, telecommunications, airports, and water supply infrastructure. Foreign ownership of up to 100 percent including Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangements are allowed in these ventures.

### ***Mining***

Tanzania has large deposits of mines and gemstones such as Tanzanite – only found in Tanzania. Tanzania also offers a large variety of other minerals including diamonds, gold, base metals and industrial minerals such as Nickel, Soda ash, Kaolin, phosphate, graphite, tin, gypsum, copper and cobalt. Tabora has large deposits of these minerals such as gold, diamond and dimension stones.

Tanzania is the Continent's third largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa and Ghana.

***Your Excellency,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I wish to conclude by reiterating Tanzania's—and Tabora's many advantages as a premier investment destination which include: *a stable political environment; Strong economic performance; unlimited investment opportunities; attractive investment incentives; vibrant private sector; pro-*

*business government; huge market; and unbending investment guarantees.*

I do hope that, at the end of this Business Forum, we would have moved yet another step closer, to securing and strengthening investment in Tabora so as to boast economic development in western part of Tanzania.

**I thank you again for having me here and I thank you for your kind attention.**