

OPENING SPEECH FOR THE APRM MEETING
18TH OCTOBER 2006,
SALAMA HALL BWAWANI HOTEL

Dear Principal Secretaries,
Deputy Principal Secretaries,
Directors of Planning and Administration,
Representatives from Private Sector,
Representatives from Civil Society Organization,
Representatives from the UN Systems,
Invited delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalaam Aleykum

Dear Participants, We thank the Almighty God to bring us here today.

We are gathered here in this important meeting today to share some experiences and knowledge on the challenges of strengthening Good Governance through implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Dear participants, I would like to introduce to you APRM, which is a voluntary self assessment, constructive peer dialogue and persuasion, and sharing of experiences and best practices. APRM fosters adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development, and accelerated sub regional and continental economic integration.

This peer review process is open to all members of the African Union. APRM is not only concerned with the government, but rather is concerned with the people of a particular country undergoing the process. By this statement, I mean, the review covers wider ouspices of a society – Government, Civil Organization, Politicians, Private Sector, etc. This fact is also marked with the mix of participants we have here today. We should get such kind of a feeling from the beginning of this process that all of us should be part and parcel of this process for successful achievement of the desired goal.

Dear Participants, let me take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about APRM. APRM is a child of NEPAD – the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which is a comprehensive, integrated and strategic framework by African Countries aimed at bringing socio-economic development. The idea behind all these efforts is to make Africans masters of their situation. It is an effort towards home grown solutions to the problems facing the African Continent. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to date has been acceded to by more than 23 African Countries. It spells an unprecedented and new committment to self- monitoring and review of progress towards Good Governance.

Dear Participants, Todays meeting intends to prepared us towards the review process and thus make everyone of us part and parcel of the process. I would also like to let you know that APRM is not a

one time event but rather a permanent voluntary mechanism that fosters the adoption of policies, standards and practices in areas of democracy and political governance; economic governance; corporate governance; and socio-economic development.

Dear Participants, a strong consensus has evolved across Africa on the critical importance of Good Governance as a precondition to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). On the other hand, the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty places Good Governance among the major three clusters, the other two are Economic Growth and Reduction of Income Poverty and Social Welfare and wellbeing. It is clear from here that the importance of Good Governance should not be underestimated.

Dear Participants, just as a point to note, I hope many of you are aware that The President of the United Republic of Tanzania recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to mark the decision of our country to enter into APRM process. I do not have to say much because today we have our fellows from Ghana and Kenya, countries which have already gone through the process and I am sure they have a lot to share with us.

Dear participant, Zanzibar has been committed to build Good Governance since 1964, through Zanzibar Revolution with the aim to put the government in the hands of the majority. In year 2000 the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar established a ministry

responsible for Good Governance and this is a commanded decision.

Dear participant, as I said earlier that we will have an opportunity today to learn from our fellows who have already gone through the process. I would like to take this opportunity to request all of you to actively participate in this meeting and get clear understanding of the process we are about to start. Having said so, I now declare this meeting officially OPEN.