

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR JOHN W.H. KIJAZI, CHIEF
SECRETARY TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE
ANNIVERSARY OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS OF THE INDIAN
INDEPENDENCE ON 15TH AUGUST, 2017**

**Your Excellency Sandeep Arya, High Commissioner of India to the United
Republic of Tanzania Tanzania;**

**Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the
Diplomatic Corps present here tonight,**

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are all gathered here to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence. So let me begin by wishing you Excellency Sandeep and the entire Indian community a **Happy Indian Independence Day!**

I am truly honoured to join you today on this auspicious event to celebrate your Independence Day. Today marks an important day in the Indian calendar, whereby you remember the heroic acts of those who struggled tirelessly to uproot colonialism from the Indian soil – the likes of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahtma Gandhi. Out of their persistent struggles for independence was born a free, independent and prosperous India, whose fruits of freedom will be enjoyed for generations to come.

It is with great pleasure therefore, I convey to your Excellency High Commissioner Sandeep Arya, and through you to the Government and the friendly people of India, the warmest greetings and heartfelt felicitations of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania. We stand united with you as you celebrate your Independence Day!

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

As most of you may be aware, India and Tanzania have deep historical roots dating back for centuries. Our people have had cultural interactions, even before the formalization of diplomatic relations of our two countries in 1961. These deep rooted historical ties are reflected even in the Swahili language, which is spoken by more than 160 million people across the African continent. Swahili language has borrowed a few words from India in its vocabulary. Walking around Dar es Salaam and other towns of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, you will also find compelling evidence of these long time cultural ties, through buildings, food, music, and so on and so forth.

It is therefore very comforting to note that our leaders, including the current Heads of State and Government, continue to underline the importance of maintaining and strengthening these bilateral relations that have happily existed between our two countries for many years. For instance, during his visit to Tanzania in July, 2016, **Shri Narendra Modi**, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India assured Tanzanians that as Tanzania modernizes its agriculture, expands its education and health care systems, builds an industrial economy and provides skills to youth, it will find in India a reliable friend, and a trusted partner.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tanzania attaches the highest importance to its relationship with India which is based on a multitude of commonalities. In the contemporary times, the two countries have built upon these commonalities and worked out a framework of cooperation for mutual benefit. That encapsulates the very essence of the current relations. As a result, our two countries are becoming increasingly interlinked through cooperation in almost all sectors. We have seen the relationship assume an unprecedented width and depth,

boosted by exchange of high level visits. These visits do not only speak of the upward trajectory of the relationship between the two countries, but also heralds a significant era of bilateral relations, and affords an opportunity for the two sides to further enhance the entire scope of bilateral cooperation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current trends of economic interdependence have very much influenced the bilateral relations between India and Tanzania. To date, India remains a strong partner of Tanzania's development efforts in terms of support for water supply and distribution projects in Dar es Salaam and Chalinze; the extension of Lake Victoria pipeline project to Tabora Region; Water supply projects in 17 different Towns in Tanzania Mainland and rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar. The establishment of a vocational training centre in Zanzibar as well as continued support for the Barefoot College in Zanzibar that provide targeted skills to women with little or no formal education; the setting up of Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine Centres at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), respectively; the establishment of two ICT Centres of Excellence at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology in Arusha; the Training and Scholarships Programmes allocated to Tanzania are yet more examples of the support offered by India to Tanzania in its development efforts. **We thank India for all this support.**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The prospects for strengthening the on – going cooperation between the two countries are very positive and promising. India’s investments in Tanzania are steadily increasing in the sectors of manufacturing, transportation, tourism, agriculture, agro processing, energy, financial services, construction and human resource development.

According to the Tanzania investment Centre (TIC), India ranks **5th Top** investors in Tanzania by cumulative value. Moreover, India-Tanzania Trade volume has grown proportionately and to date India ranks **1st** in terms of overall trade volume. With the commitments expressed recently by the two leaders of our countries, I am sure that trade and investment from India will grow further and contribute a bigger share to development of our two countries.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Without further ado, once again on behalf of the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania, and indeed on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to wish the Republic of India, her people all over the world, including Tanzanians of Indian descent, a happy and successful Indian Independency Day.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you all for your gracious presence and may I now invite you all to join me in a toast:

- For the further prosperity, the good health and the well being of the peoples of our two countries;

- For the continued friendship and close fraternal ties between India and Tanzania, and also between India and all countries represented here this evening.

I THANK YOU ALL