

**REMARKS OF WELCOME BY PROF. MARK J. MWANDOSYA (MP), MINISTER FOR WATER AND IRRIGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE HELD AT MLIMANI CITY CONFERENCE HALL ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009.**

**Your Excellency, Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed my honour and pleasure to warmly welcome all of our invited guests to this important occasion of celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative.

The three days celebrations has brought together over 500 Nile Basin Initiative stakeholders including policy makers, parliamentarians, civil society, the youth, women, academia, elders, business community and our cooperating development partners.

This event will also provide the Nile Basin Initiative with the opportunity to exhibit its achievements over the past ten years and to demonstrate investment opportunities and the future prospects in the Nile River Basin. Yesterday, I had a singular honour to officiate the anniversary exhibitions preceded by the three kilometer - walk from the Water Development and Management Institute to Mlimani City.

May I now, with your permission Honourable Vice President, recognize the presence among us of the following:

- (i) Nile Council of Ministers and Heads of Delegation who include:**

- Honourable Dr. Mohamed Nasr El-Din Allam – Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers and Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation of the Arab Republic of Egypt,
- Honourable Asfaw Dingamo – Minister for Water Resources, Ethiopia,
- Honourable Engineer Kamal Ali Mohamed – Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources, Sudan.
- Honourable Mwangi Kiunjuri, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Kenya.
- Honourable A. Laurent, Deputy Minister for Energy of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Joseph Nduwimana, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Water, Environment, Land and Urban Planning, Burundi.
- Ms. Caroline Kayonga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Land and Environment, Rwanda.
- Engineer Mugisha Shilingi, Director of Water Resources, Uganda

**(ii) Cabinet Ministers of the United Republic of Tanzania:**

- Honourable Dr. John Magufuli (MP), Minister for Livestock Development and Fisheries.
- Honourable Dr. Batilda Burian (MP), Minister of State, Vice President’s Office (Environment).
- Honourable Dr. James Wanyancha (MP), Deputy Minister for Livestock Development and Fisheries.
- Honourable Engineer Christopher K. Chiza, Deputy Minister for Water and Irrigation.

**(iii) Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Tanzania:**

- Ambassador of Egypt
- Ambassador of Ethiopia
- Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- High Commissioner of Kenya

- High Commissioner of Uganda
  - Ambassador of Burundi
  - Ambassador of Rwanda
  - Ambassador of Sudan
  - Ambassador of France
  - Ambassador of Germany
  - High Commissioner of the United Kingdom
- (iv) **Members of Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania:**
- Honourable Wilson Masilingi – Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security,
  - Honourable John Momose Cheyo - Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts,
  - Honourable Dr. Wilbrod Slaa - Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Local Government Accounts,
  - Honourable Mussa Azzan Zungu – Deputy Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security,
  - Honourable Kidawa Salehe - Deputy Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water,
  - Honourable Jacob Shibiliti – Member of Parliament for Misungwi Constituency.
- (v) **Members of Parliament from the other Nile Basin Countries:**
- Honourable Gerard Ruzagiriza and Honourable Genevieve Ngabirano, Members of Parliament from Burundi,
  - Honourable Uweka Pierrot, and Honourable Upira Dieudonne, Members of Parliament from The Democratic Republic of Congo,
  - Honourable Hesham Moustafa Ali, Member of Parliament from Egypt,

- Honourable Ambassador Mohamed Ali and Honourable Endalkachew, Members of Parliament from Ethiopia,
  - Honourable Professor Olwenya Ayiecho, Member of Parliament, from Kenya,
  - Honourable Dr. El Amin Dafalla and Honourable Farouq Ahmed Adam, Members of Parliament from Sudan,
  - Honourable Grace Tubwita and Honourable Kasamba Mathias, Members of Parliament from Uganda,
- (vi) **The Regional Commissioner of Dar es Salaam, Hon. William Lukuvi** represented by Mr. Evans Balama, the District Commissioner for Ilala District, Dar es Salaam.
- (vii) **Hon. Adam Kimbisa, The Mayor of the City of Dar es Salaam,**
- (viii) **Development Partners, International and Regional Organizations:**
- The World Bank, The African Development Bank, GTZ, USAID.
  - FAO, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, East African Community, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, European Union, CIDA - Canada, SIDA - Sweden, UNICEF, JICA and NORAD.
- (ix) **Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations:**
- Water Aid, Tanzania Water Supply and Sanitation Network (TAWASANET), The Center for Energy, Environment, Science and Technology (CEEST Foundation), WWF, IUCN, and Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).
- (x) **Elders of the Nile Basin:**
- Mr. Mussa Nkhangaa.
  - Mr. Mrisho M. Kivugo.
  - Mr. John Mayunga.
- (xi) **Executive Director – Nile Basin Initiative, Ms. Henriette Ndombe.**
- (xii) **Invited Key Note Speakers:**

- We are particularly delighted to have Professor Ali Mazrui, the Director of Global Studies at Binghamton University (USA) among us. He will be giving a Key Note Speech on the Nile, Source of Culture, Continuity and Change.
- Professor Elfatih Eltahir, a Sudanese Boston (USA) based Professor, will deliver a presentation on Climate Change and Water Resources in the Nile Basin. These two renowned speakers are representing the other nineteen speakers who will give presentations today and tomorrow.

**(xiii) Lecturers and Students from:**

- The University of Dar es Salaam.
- Sokoine University of Agriculture.
- Mzumbe University.
- The Institute of Water Development and Management.

**(xiv) Teachers and Students from Secondary and Primary Schools:**

- St. Mary's International Secondary School.
- Mapambano Primary School
- Tabata Bima Bright Future Academy.

**(xv) Student Winners of Environmental Conservation Competition:**

- Mr. Kelvin Rutakosa of Makoko Seminary, Musoma.
- Ms. Agnes Francis of Loreto Girls Secondary School, Mwanza.

**Your Excellency Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania**, with these introductory remarks and introductions, it is my singular honour and privilege that I should now invite you to address us.

**Mr. Vice President Sir.**