

SPEECH BY HON. PROF MAKAME MBARAWA (MP), MINISTER FOR WATER, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 3RD NATIONAL MULTI-SECTORAL FORUM FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

03RD DECEMBER 2019

JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER

DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA

- Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water
- Eng. Mbogo Futakamba, Chairman of the National Multi-Sectoral Forum for Water Resources Management;
- Ms. Karin Krchnack, Global Program Manager for 2030 Water Resources Group;
- Dr. George Lugomela, Director of Water Resources at the Ministry of Water;
- Directors from different government Ministries and Institutions;
- Representatives from the Development Partners;
- Representatives from the Private Sector;
- Leaders and participants from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
- Distinguished Members of the Forum;
- Members of the Press;
- Invited Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by welcoming all participants to this important, 3rd National Multi-sectoral Forum on Water Resources Management. I am aware that among the participants, some have come from outside Tanzania as well those coming from outside Dar es Salaam. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Tanzania and Dar es Salaam in Particular.

Dear participants, water is the most important resource humanity has. It is not only a prerequisite for life but an essential component for social, environmental and economic development and fundamental factor in peace, social cohesion and poverty reduction. That is why through Tanzania's Water legal framework, access to water for basic human needs is given first priority. Water is also central in the social, economic and political affairs of our country and beyond because we believe that – "If There is No Water, There is No Future." We are mindful that sustainability of water supply service delivery and other water dependent infrastructure lies at the core of water resources management. This in itself brings the relevance of involvement of every interested entity to the neutral forum like this in order to chart the way on how this noble task can be handled.

Dear participants, I would like to extend a hand of appreciation to all partners who are supporting my Ministry to create and facilitate the Water Resources Management Forums. We have learned a lot during the past few years of the Water Resources Management Stakeholders Platform piloted by 2030 Water Resources Group since 2014. This is one of the reason why in 2017, the Ministry of Water decided to officially adopt this initiative and create a formal mechanism that broadens stakeholders participation at all

levels. As you may be aware, at National level, there is a National Water Board responsible for advising me in fulfilling the water resources management agenda. I find that a broader forum like this creates a platform to discuss in depth issues related to Water Resources Management and Development challenges. Those that require policy or legislation changes can then be picked through the National Water Board and advice the Minister on the same. We have established similar Fora at all the nine Rivers and Lake Basins and in some areas we have gone down to catchment levels by establishing Catchment Forums.

Dear Participants, these achievements would have never been possible if it wasn't for the continued support, collaboration and unwavering commitment from each and every one of you. I would like to appreciate the financial support from the World Bank for funding establishment and operationalization of the Water Resources Management Multi Sectoral Forums and the 2030 Water Resources Group from 2014 for piloting the Stakeholder's Platform. I am told that all the 9 Basin Water Boards Multi Sectoral Forums have been received positively across the country.

Dear participants, it is encouraging to note that, the Private Sector has also taken this serious initiative and is using it as a platform to engage with the government on matters related to utilization and management of water resources. I am happy to note that the private sector (led by Confederation of Tanzania Industries – CTI) in collaboration with Ministry of Water, used the private sector roundtable meeting on water resources that was held on 19th July 2019, to discussed among others, the issue of water user fees for

bottling industries. I have been briefed that, there have been a number of consecutive meetings on the subject and on 28th November 2019 through Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board; there was a meeting with CTI that deliberated on this important issue and agreed in-principle how much the bottling industries will be paying as water user fee from January, 2020. I give example of that action to show how these forums can be used to discuss and tackle issues at each level, i.e. national, basin and catchment levels.

Dear Participants, one of the most important task this Multi-sectoral Forum is supposed to spearhead, is to promote implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (IWRMD) Plans. The IWRMD Plans provide the blueprint for sustainable water resources management in the basins. So far, six (6) basins have completed preparation of IWRMD Plans. The basins are Lake Tanganyika, Lake Rukwa, Lake Nyasa, Internal Drainage, Rufiji and Ruvuma. Wami-Ruvu Basin is expected to complete preparation of its plan at the end of this month, December, 2019 and the remaining two basins have started preparation of the same. All sectors and stakeholders that use water will recall that they submitted the projects that are planned to be developed across the country and which have been incorporated in the IWRMD Plans for respective basins. It is therefore the responsibility of each sector and other stakeholders to develop their projects in accordance with the IWRMD Plans in order to ensure sustainability of water resources for the current and future generation. Failure to observe what has been outlined in the plans will lead to conflicts among sectors and water users. This could also

lead to some of the implemented projects operating below their design capacity due to shortage of water. On the other The Basin Water Boards will continue to play their noble role of regulation for effective implementation of the plans.

Dear Participants, the outcome of in-depth discussions in these forums, need to be documented and communicated to show evidence on how water resources sub sector performs. Short of this, it is easier to loose the interest of partners especially the private sector when nothing can be shown as tangible steps towards a more sustained water resources management. During the course of this forum sharing of information on water security should be addressed for reflection. There are good examples in Tanzania and from our neighboring countries where you can tap best practices including programs on Payments for Ecosystem Services that has been piloted in parts of Tanzania and across the globe. Similarly, there are good examples from the Nairobi Water Fund which I am told last year you brought a colleague from the Fund to give a talk on how such water funds can be created in different areas/cities to cater for water resources management. Other examples also include how partners in South Africa especially the mining sector, beverage and others have made tangible benefits on water security issues. I argue you to use this forum to reflect on those examples, to decide on what can be implemented and show results next year.

Dear participants, My Ministry is mandated to ensure water availability and accessibility both in good quantity and quality to serve the people and

propel the economy. This is done through initiatives like water supply for domestic needs, water for power generation e.g. Nyerere Hydropower Generation in Rufiji, water for irrigation to enhance food security, water for environment, inputs to a number of industrial products and other needs. Therefore, let's use forums like this one to come up with quick wins that helps to improve lives and make sure the water is available for sustainable development. I urge all of you to work closely in collaboration with my Ministry to facilitate and promote spirit of learning out of the established forums because dynamics and water availability in the basins is very different across the country. For example, Rufiji Basin total renewable water resources per capita is 10,351 cubic meter per year and Internal Drainage and Wami/Ruvu with less than 1,000 cubic meter per year per capita. This means that water use in Wami-Ruvu and Internal Drainage Basins has to be more efficient compared to Rufiji Basin but also the need to store more water.

Dear participants, as I conclude my remarks, I leave you with few quotations as food of thought and reflection:-

- *By Thomas Fuller (an English History 1608 – 1661) on the linkage between the importance of water resources management and its role to assuring sustainable water supply; and I quote, "We never know the worth of water until the well or a river is dry"?*

With those remarks, I declare the forum officially open.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL - ASANTENI SANA