

**REMARKS BY HON. AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD  
THABIT KOMBO (MP), MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION  
DURING THE DIPLOMATIC SHERRY PARTY  
HOSTED FOR THE HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC  
MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS 15TH JANUARY 2026,  
STATE HOUSE, DAR ES SALAAM**

- *Your Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhi Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania;*
- *Honourable Ng'waru Jumanne Maghembe (MP) and Honourable James Kinyasi Millya (MP), Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs - Foreign Affairs and EAC, respectively;*
- *Ambassador Dr. Samwel Shelukindo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation - responsible for Foreign Affairs;*
- *Ambassador Stephen Mbundi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation - responsible for East African Affairs;*

- *Ambassador Said Shaib Mussa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation;*
- *Your Excellency Dr. Ahamada El-Badaoui Mohamed Fakih, Ambassador of the Union of Comoros and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;*
- *Excellencies, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organization;*
- *Ambassadors, Heads of Department and Unit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation,*
- *Distinguished Guests;*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

**Good morning, Kazi na Utu!**

It is a great pleasure and honour to join you at your invitation Madam Excellency President, at the State House today for this very important annual Diplomatic Sherry Party which has been your tradition to host since you took over the office in your previous first term.

Your presence here Excellency Madam President is a clear testament to the enduring friendships and partnerships that you have always been providing in your leadership that unites us as your Ministry being Diplomat No. 1 in the country, and to the spirit of cooperation light that continues to guide our collective journey with the Diplomatic Community Group that represents their countries and institutions in Tanzania.

*Your Excellency Madam President,*

The year 2025 was marked by sustained diplomatic engagements as the Sixth Phase Government of the United Republic of Tanzania remained firmly focused on strengthening cooperation for the mutual benefit of Tanzania and its global partners.

Your Government Madam President continued to advance its national interests through proactive diplomacy, open dialogue and strategic partnerships.

During last year of 2025, UR of Tanzania deepened its bilateral and multilateral relations in line with Tanzania's foreign policy priorities, set clearly with emphasis on

economic diplomacy, peace, non-aligned standing and development cooperation.

These efforts were guided by your Excellency's Madam President visionary leadership, whose commitment to constructive international open dialogue and engagements continues to elevate Tanzania's position regionally, continentally and globally.

***Your Excellency Madam President,***

Reflecting on the year 2025 more broadly, I was accorded the rare privilege and great honour to continue serving as your Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation during your second term administration.

I remain deeply grateful to Your Excellency, Madam President, for your renewed trust in me personally and the confidence level you have always given me. I have no enough words of appreciating this great gesture that you have extended in my profession and career. I say **Ahsante sana Mhe. Rais.**

I would also like to take this opportunity in front of you Excellency Madam President to thank all the Members of the Diplomatic Community here in Tanzania for their continued cooperation and support that they have provided me and my team in the Ministry.

I once again reaffirm my commitment to discharge my duties diligently with renewed vigour and to work closely with all the Diplomatic Community members and to ensure that their tour of duty in the United Republic of Tanzania is both productive, fulfilling and a memorable one.

*Excellency, Madam President,*

The second half of last year reminded us all that change is the only constant and agility the only currency. At home, here in Tanzania, there was unorthodox and unexpected political disruption following the very regrettable events of October 29th during the general elections.

These events impacted our country's standing and image globally. At home we witnessed riots and attacks on both

public and private properties including sad moment of loss of lives while Abroad, we witnessed disturbing developments of increasing polarization, diminishing multilateralism, funding cuts and global economic uncertainty. Our Foreign Policy and our Tanzanian diplomacy were put to the test for the first time in our history since independence 64 years ago.

*Excellency Madam President,*

Upon my reappointment as Foreign Minister, I received many calls and written messages of encouragement and solidarity from many of our close friends and allies. Some included concerns too, while others asked what happened to Tanzania, a known cradle of peace in the region???

Others submitted through diplomatic channels, while some unfortunately, through inappropriate platforms and spaces. I shared with you Excellency Madam President each message we received. For me and my team, *Every message mattered. Every voice was heard and acted upon. All we required was space of time*

*interval to address each appropriately and respond to accordingly.*

With your able wisdom and guidance Excellency Madam President, and upon your instructions and directives, I actively and extensively reached out to and engaged capitals, allies, majesties and friends who all warmly welcomed your message with open arms and hearts through special envoy.

To those who needed more clarification, I provided it and shared our narrative. With those whose narratives differed from ours, I gave a detailed explanation with supporting evidences. Finally we were well understood as a nation and the United Nations agreed to provide space for healing and recovery via the Enquiry Commission which I clearly explained to be followed by Reconciliation through your Excellency's Madam President strengthen 4R practical approach.

I also registered our concern with those whose conduct was inconsistent with our playbook, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, and fell

short of long-standing diplomatic traditions and decorum. These too were well noted and received with a feedback provided.

No opportunity was lost, and no avenue spared. Whether it was a telemeeting with Commonwealth Ministers virtually or bilateral visits, or on the margins of other international conferences, I reached out with the same message: that there is a return to normalcy in Tanzania, and that our Government is taking bold measures to fix what was tested but not broken. **The message was loud and clear, that We stand stronger as a nation, united in our healing process and unified in our recovery.**

*Excellency Madam President*

I commend your Excellency's leadership, consistency and clarity throughout. We managed to navigate the complexity under your leadership and endured the difficulties and sustained momentum. We echo your promise of never shying away from engagement and open dialogue, with respect but in ways and manners

that respect our political space, our mutual interests, our dignity, traditions and culture.

This is consistent with the pillars and principles of our Constitution and Foreign Policy of The United Republic of Tanzania. That is what makes us, Tanzanians, a unique identity that we pride ourselves globally.!

It would be remiss for me Excellency Madam President, not to mention and acknowledge all our gallant Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Diplomats abroad representing our Nation, for staying on course and actively engaging host governments, partners and people of good will with Tanzania with the same message globally.

I must say that the President is very proud of you all our 50 Tanzanian Representatives abroad! **Hongereni sana na Ahsanteni sana.**

As we move forward into 2026 now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships, promoting

Tanzania's interests, and contributing to regional and global peace and development.

*Excellency, Madam President,*

As stated earlier, my role was merely to set the stage and welcome you as this is your event but with your permission I said few words. The distinguished Heads of Missions, Representatives of Regional and International Organizations, together with all our esteemed guests, are keen and eagerly ready to hear from you and therefore it is my distinct honour to welcome you Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of The United Republic of Tanzania to address this audience.

**Karibu Sana Mheshimiwa Rais**