

**KEYNOTE SPEECH OF THE SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR
HON. AMBASADOR SEIF ALI IDDI AT THE WORKSHOP FOR PREPARATION
OF‘ZANZIBAR EDUCATION SECTOR PLAN’ AT
ZANZIBAR BEACH RESORT, FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST 2016**

(Read by Honorable Haroun Ali Suleiman, Minister of State, President’s office, Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Services and Good Governance)

**Honorable Riziki Pembe Juma, Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar
Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar
Honorable Regional Commissioner, Urban West Region,
Honorable Regional Commissioners and District Commissioners,
Representatives from Development Partners, International Organizations and Civil Society
Organizations,
Principal Secretaries from various Ministries,
Directors and Heads of Departments from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
Officers, Education Board Members, Head Teachers and Students,
Invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Protocol observed;**

Asaalam Aleykum

First of all, I would like to thank the Almighty God for giving us good health that enabled us to be here today in this important workshop of developing Zanzibar Education Sector plan for the year 2016 to 2020. Secondly, I would like to express my sincere appreciations and thanks to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training for inviting me to be the guest of honor in the opening of this workshop for the development of education sector of our nation.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to welcome participants from bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society and public in this workshop. Your extended invitation is based on Government’s recognition for your support in the Zanzibar education sector. Also, I would like to sincerely thank partners who provided both financial support in conducting Education Situation Analysis and other studies, fund for this workshop and the subsequent events that will be involved in the developing education sector plan. Some of the key partners are World Bank, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Sweden International Development Agency (Sida), UNICEF, Milele Zanzibar Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation through Madrasa Early childhood Programme- Zanzibar, and many more. Because of time, I cannot mention all. Your support to our Government is highly appreciated and respected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since 1964, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has given a priority to the provision of quality education for all with the aim of improving wellbeing if its citizens. A call for free education in 1964 helped the poor and marginalized families to send their children to school without any discrimination. Government did so in recognition of the role of education to human development. Dakar Declaration on Education for All of 2000 as well as Millennium Development Goals provided a strategic guidance for our government in providing education in various parts of Zanzibar.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar have invested greatly in the construction and expansion of schools and other education infrastructure, supply of teaching and learning resources and also provided various trainings to teachers with the intention of getting expected outcomes of that investment. For instance, in the last five years, the government invested more than 50 million US Dollars in various education programmes, of which 19 new schools have been built, 1 teacher training college and 6 secondary schools have been massively repaired in both Unguja and Pemba. Also in-service training to Science, Mathematics and English teachers were provided. It also supported the production of 190,212 text books and Teachers guide for Kiswahili, History Geography and Computer for secondary schools. Also, the Government has invested in higher education by setting up the new campus State University of Zanzibar at Tunguu. The completion of this project enabled the university to increase student's enrollment to various courses according to the government needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government recognizes a need to continue investing in educational infrastructure that will in turn enable all students including those with special needs and girls to learn in a safe and user friendly environment. Your government intends to continue constructing new schools and provision of teaching and learning materials as well as providing training and decent working condition to teachers including remunerations. In the annual budget of 20116/2017, the Government plans to construct 15 additional schools (preprimary, primary and secondary) especially in areas where overcrowding of students is critical. The Government will also address issue of inadequate desks and chairs in schools. I call upon private companies, civil society organizations and Tanzania in the diaspora to join government hands in providing furniture to all our schools.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government and community efforts in this sector have resulted in to positive changes in the education sector. There is an increased enrollment of students at all levels and improve in gender parity in the provision of education. For Example, the Gross enrollment rate for preprimary has

increased from 30.1% in 2015 to 58.2% in 2016. For this year, gross enrollment rate in primary school and secondary school are 103.1% and 74% respectively. The increased enrollment at pre-primary and primary levels has been manifested by government's decision of providing contribution free education and parents are not required to contribute fund for schools' basic facilities. Our government will increase its budget allocation for education sector based on the economic growth in lieu of parent's contributions made to support education. This is a great achievement compared with other countries that have better economy compared to that of Zanzibar. We have to ensure sustainability of these achievements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government approved Zanzibar Education Policy in 2006 with the aim of increasing provision of quality basic education that include 2years of pre-primary, six years of primary level and for years of secondary as part of basic education. This decision was made after undertaking research which confirmed that pre-primary education have significant role in preparing children for primary education. Therefore, great efforts were made to expand pre-primary through various programs. Such programs included Radio Instruction for Strengthening Education (RISE) piloted in North A and Micheweni Districts; strengthening teacher education at the State University of Zanzibar by offering diploma in early childhood education. Also Certificates in early childhood education offered by Madrasa Early Childhood Programme- Zanzibar is now offered to bridge the teacher's capacity gaps. Now, there is an increased number of qualified early childhood teachers in both government and community pre-schools preparing our younger children. These efforts will result into getting more qualified teachers in public and community pre-primary schools. Government in collaboration with other partners will continue its efforts to support pre preprimary education by establishing new preprimary classes, train more teachers; provide needed teaching and learning materials. The radio programme has now been expanded to cover more districts. The Government of Zanzibar will continue funding preschools and as waiver to parent's direct contributions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a significant improvement in alternative education. Drop out students and un-enrolled children have been trained on life skills in various vocational training centers. Some of them have resumed back in the formal education system and some are self-employed or employed elsewhere. In 2016/2017, the Government will set up one alternative education Centre at Wingwi Mtemani, Micheweni district. Literacy rate has improved tremendously and about 84% of our population is literate. More emphasis will be made to link adult education programme with life skills.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Qualified, motivated and competent teachers plays significant role in the provision of quality education. The Government has strengthened provision of teacher training by merging two teacher training colleges with the State University of Zanzibar. Also 11 established Teacher

Centers plays key role for in-service training. To date, 99% of teachers have been trained. Apart from having such good number of trained primary and secondary schools teachers, there is a challenge of improving quality education. Examination results at all levels are not satisfactory. There is a need to work out on solutions to this challenge by identifying root causes of student's poor performance and limited skills and knowledge when they graduate. Government will continue to strengthen teacher training, strengthen monitoring and teacher's support systems, improve teacher's remuneration and create an enabling environment by improving education infrastructure. Also, government will recruit new teachers based on the current educational needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the focus of identifying and developing talents of our children, government has established sports and culture department in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. Sports do not build students health only but also interpersonal skills, team work, friendship and brotherhood. Sports and cultural activities are also source of employment for our people. As it is known, every society has its own culture and is passed from one generation to the other. Therefore, government will continue promoting sports and culture to its people including students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the provision of higher education and vocational training, there are noticeable successes. Currently, Zanzibar has 3 universities and to a larger extent are contributing to the generation of human resource base in socio economic development. The State University of Zanzibar has developed several 'schools' generating graduates of different disciplines. Similar trend is observed at Zanzibar University and Al Sumait. Government commends the owners of such private universities for their contribution of generating needed human capita and I call upon other organisations and foreign universities to invest in higher education. Zanzibar has good enabling environment for higher education in the East and Southern Africa market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the 21st Century, Science and technology plays important role in economic development. Government will continue investing in this field by strengthening Karume Institute of Science and Technology by constructing new workshop with modern equipment as well as train tutors so that they prepare qualified students. Also the government started the construction of 2 vocation centres in Kisongo Makunduchi in Unguja and Daya, Mtambwe Pemba. These centres with the 3 existing ones will contribute to provide various vocational skills in different regions of Zanzibar. Government will continue supporting vocational training centers by accommodating the labor market needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Such achievements in the education sector until 2016, have been contributed by having good policies and national development plans such as Vision 2020 and Poverty Eradication Strategies, Zanzibar Education Policy and Zanzibar Education Development Plan (2007/08 – 2015/16) and CCM manifesto of 2010 -2015. Also international conventions such as Education for All and Millennium Development Goals guided us.

I have been told that Ministry of Education and Vocational training did 2 main studies and consultation with education partners in Tanzania as a stepping stone in the development of new education sector plan. I would like to appeal that these studies and reviews should be examined critically and its recommendations should be considered in the development of the sector plan. In so doing, the process of developing sector plan will be better as it will back up by the research findings and recommendations. Therefore, I urge all of you to read and use research reports and accommodate comments and suggestion from various actors consulted in the development of the new education sector plan that will be efficient, good quality and set implementable priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Apart from the achievements made in the education sector, there are many challenges and of different types in the provision of education. I believe you are aware of them more than I am. Some of those challenges are as follows:

1. Limited pre-schools especially in rural and remote areas
2. Overcrowding of students in some schools
3. Right aged children are not enrolled to schools especially those living in hard reaching areas and those with special needs
4. Inadequate school infrastructure especially to those with special needs
5. Limited number of qualified science, mathematics and English teachers
6. Limited skills in teaching and learning using English language
7. Inadequate furniture (desks and chairs)
8. Worn out school infrastructure
9. Limited teaching and learning for children
10. Poor student's performance
11. Inadequate supervision, inspection and management systems (at school level)
12. Schools leavers do not have skills and knowledge for self-employment or being employed
13. Rapid changes in needs of skills and knowledge that is linked with the science and technology needs, and
14. Limited community participation in the education of their children.

We all recognize that there are various challenges as mentioned above and many more. Some of these challenges are contributed to limited funds but some are due to quality of human resources, accountability among other reasons. It is my hope that the current challenges will be addressed in the new plan. It is impossible to have such challenges while expecting getting better development. It is my hope also that you will use this opportunity to discuss these challenges in details and come with solutions needed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to advice that there is no short cut in getting solution to all challenges in the education sector. In the development of education sector plan, it is important to consider various priorities in different levels of education and develop its implementation plan, taking into account its importance, availability of human resource and funding as well as its importance in the national development. It is better to organize ourselves for short, medium and long term plans and revise the sector plan annually in order to accommodate current needs and changes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar express its sincere and heartfelt appreciations with thanks to all development partners, international organization, financial institutions, civil society organizations and private sector for their great cooperation in the implementation of the previous education sector plan that has just ended. I also wish to express our thanks to the community for their contribution and cooperation in providing quality education. It is my hope that this collaboration will continue in the development of new Education sector plan from 2016- 2020 and its implementation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I am winding up my speech by requesting all of you here to work together in the development of New Education Sector Plan in order to be one of the stimulants of speeding up quality education in our country. Once again, I thank you all for your attendance in this event for your interests, that of children and nation at large. I now have the honour to officially declare that the workshop on the “Development of Education Sector Plan for 2016/17 to 2010/20 have been officially opened

Quality education first is possible, play your part.

Thank you for your attention.