

Launch of EPSL Programme

*Speech by H.E. Mizengo K. P. Pinda, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania
Zanzibar Beach Resort, 25th May, 2009*

***Honourable Hawa Ghasia, Minister of State President's Office
Public Service Management,***

Honourable Chief Minister,

Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Executive Officers,

Chairman of the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania,

Distinguished Programme Participants and Facilitators,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here today to witness and formally launch again the start of the Enhancing Public Service Leadership programme - EPSL.

It has been one year (8th October, 2007) since the President of the United Republic of Tanzania His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete launched the CSF Board of Trustees, an institution that has been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the CEO Scholarship Fund and the execution of its main project, EPSL.

I recall him urging the Board to get on with its work with urgency and speed because he realised then, as I do today, that the development challenges we face as a country are many and overwhelming and time is not on our side.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Tanzania still faces enormous development challenges. I have travelled extensively to the remotest corners of our beloved country. I have spoken to millions of our people and listened to their stories.

I have seen with my own eyes their everyday struggles to put food on the table for their families, to take their children to school, to keep their families safe from disease, to transport their produce to markets and to gain access to the most basic infrastructure services such as water, electricity and telecommunication.

But I have also seen and spoken to many Tanzanians who are ready to face these challenges and prevail in the end, people who are not daunted by the immense magnitude of the problems they face today, people whose hopes and aspirations for a better future for themselves and their children cannot and will not be suppressed by current complexities.

These people need and deserve the support of their Government. But we know now more than ever before that the Government on its own will not be able to provide the support needed by our people in their efforts to develop. The role of our private sector in our national development is critical for the change we seek to achieve.

Ladies and Gentlemen, at last year's launch of the CSF Board, President Kikwete spoke about the urgent need for a change of mindset especially in our public service. Likewise we realise that for

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real change to take place we need the public and private sector to complement each other in bringing about development. I am glad that we are finally at a point when we move from speaking about true partnership to actually doing something about it. With the launch of EPSL, we have finally moved from **“Thought”** to **“Action”**.

It is significant that we have come to this stage, where senior executives of our Government will take time off to take a fresh look at the state of our nation, to envision their individual and collective roles and responsibilities in achieving the development ends that we have set for ourselves and more importantly, to consider our country's chances of positioning itself to succeed in the fast paced change that globalisation has brought upon us.

I am pleased that you will have opportunity to engage openly and with more confidence between the public and private sectors and hopefully in the end find ways of collaboration and partnership that are so critical for our success together.

I have no illusion that this discovery journey you are embarking on today is going to be easy. Nor do I expect that you will all come out of this room magically transformed. What matters however is that you will make an effort to change where change is the right thing to do, that you will make an honest effort to listen and be convinced, That you will work hard to convince others and most importantly, that you will reach out to the person across the public-private divide as you realise that you need each other in order to succeed in your

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respective fields. If that can happen by the end of this week or by the conclusion of this programme, we will have made a great leap forward.

Chairman Mao famously said –

“... a 1,000 mile journey begins with a single step”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our 1,000 mile journey as public and private sector leaders to a truly functional society capable of occupying a respectable place in the globalised world has commenced with this first EPSL seminars: an honest and hopefully frank conversation about **CHANGE**.

I would like to thank the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania for identifying a problem that if successfully dealt with could unleash the collective energies of our people and lead to profound changes in the way we do business in this country. I also thank all government officials who have contributed to the implementation of this initiative.

Finally, I thank our guests from the United States, Touchstones Discussion Project (TDP) for taking time to study the problem at hand and coming up with a curriculum and engagement process that is both unique and special.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, with those few remarks, I now have the pleasure to declare this Enhancing Public Sector Leadership in the Globalisation Era programme (EPSL) formally launched.

I thank you all for listening to me!