



Norwegian Embassy

AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH - SIGNING CEREMONY FOR CORE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE (LHRC)

Date: 16.04.2019

Venue: LHRC's headquarters, Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam.

BEGIN

Salutation

- Board of Directors
- The Executive Director
- Management representatives
- Staff
- Members of press

Habari za mchana,

It is a great honor to be here today to officially our new core support partnership for LHRC's new Operational Plan 2019-2021 which is part of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2024. Norway has been a strong supporter of human rights course in Tanzania, in line with that, we have supported various initiatives aimed at promoting human rights in the country including Centre's outgoing Strategic Plan 2013-2018 at the tune of NOK 18,300,000.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Centre for successfully articulating its new six-year strategic plan 2019-2024, which is a whole new roadmap towards advocating for a just and equitable society by 2024. Successful completion of the predecessor strategies and enactment of a new one is indeed a demonstration

of growth and stability for any organization, operating in the socio-economic and political context in the country.

Moreover, I would like to congratulate the Centre and particularly its Executive Director, Advocate Anna Henga for being awarded 2019 International Women of Courage Award, which portrays global recognition of Centre's activities - this is indeed a great honour to the Centre and us the donors but also a catalyst for other like-minded organizations to step up efforts in defending and advocating for human rights in the country and world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human Rights has been on top of Norway's agenda for a long time, and it is in addition a particular focus for the current government – The recent White Papers presented to the Parliament (The Storting) generally speak about peace, justice, democracy, fight against corruption, human rights and equal treatment under the law as well as strong institutions, which are founding pillars of the Norwegian society - Norway believes in the equality of all human beings including minority populations since human rights are in principle inalienable rights.

Indeed, Tanzania has made great strides on the road towards provision of social rights with an exception of the noted increase of human rights incidents from reports of brutal killings of women and children in the Southern Highlands regions, among others. Moreover, mob justice and witchcraft-related killings neutralize earlier efforts by the government, judiciary and human rights advocates.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Freedom of expression is under pressure in many places in the world. We must stand up for freedom of expression, not because we agree with all views that are expressed, but because freedom of expression is the foundation, on which all other democratic freedoms rest.

Restrictive media legislations will have negative impact on transparency, accountability and good governance and will stand in the way of fighting corruption, attracting foreign investments and attaining economic development in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we all know, transparency and accountability is the very essence of the oversight role played by ombudsman institutions including the Parliament and

the National Audit Office (NAO) – To succeed in enhancing accountability and fighting corruption anywhere, institutional cooperation and team work amongst these oversight bodies is key!

Despite having a long-standing commitment to support promotion of human rights globally, competing priorities in donor countries may lead to apparent diminishing trend of foreign aid as more traditional donors may decrease development aid to focus more on trade relations with the developing world – This will unfortunately compel non-profit organizations to devise alternative methods of raising funds to counter looming budget deficits in the long run.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to appreciate LHRC's efforts in advocating for protection of social and economic rights through advocacy in human rights and business – According to the recent report, significant number of laborers and workers still face some labour challenges despite having protection mechanisms in place. Inadequate wages, lack of fair compensation, costs for medical care, and social security coverage is still reported to be a huge concern as most workers are not covered. It is important to strengthen law enforcement in this area to build a welfare nation.

Furthermore, Norway is a long-term global supporter of women's rights thus our support to UN in Tanzania, which contributes to efforts in ending violence against women and children (VAWC) and women economic empowerment (WEE), among others.

In addition, Norway supports the National Action Plan to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA – VAWC), efforts to encourage inclusion of women in science and technology through partnership with Engineers Registration Board as well as enhancing resilience to climate change and accessibility of clean energy through REDD in collaboration with the Vice-President's Office and support to SAGCOT efforts in enhancing agricultural development where women are the key stakeholders.

Asanteni sana kwa kunisikiliza!

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