



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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Speech at the Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony between Legal and Human Rights Centre and the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania

**His Excellence Hon. Ambassador Anders Sjöberg, Swedish Ambassador in
Tanzania,**

**Prof. Geoffrey Mmari - the Chairperson to the Legal and Human Rights
Centre (LHRC's) Board of Directors,**

**Delegates from the Swedish Embassy, Norway Embassy and Irish Embassy,
Esteemed LHRC staff,**

Members of the press and other distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to this very special event that will witness the Legal and Human Rights Centre and the Government of Sweden through the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania sign an agreement to support endeavors aiming to protect and promote human rights in Tanzania.

For us (LHRC), we are delighted because this event marks the launch of our new strategic plan for the next six years that is 2019 to 2024. For that sake we can say 2019 begins today. Happy New Year

LHRC is a non-governmental organisation established in 1995 to advocate for protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law and good governance. LHRC works towards attainment of *a Just and Equitable Society* where - the three arms of state [parliament, judiciary and the executive] as well as non-state actors

Board of Directors:

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practice accountability, transparency and there is rule of law; and where there is public awareness, respect and engagement for human rights and good governance; and where justice and respect for human dignity are reality.

Being a non-profit organisation, our functions entirely depend on donor funding. For the past two decades, the Government of Sweden through the Swedish Embassy to Tanzania has greatly been supporting our work. Since 2001 when the Government of Sweden launched its support to LHRC, the ties between the two of us have brought lot of positive changes in the society including improved access to justice particularly to the marginalized; increased awareness of human rights among members of the general public and duty bearers; enhanced advocacy for reforms for human rights sensitive laws and policies; just to mention a few.

Sweden has proved herself to be a stable and reliable partner to Tanzania. The support that Tanzania receives from the Government of Sweden is part of the Swedish Government's commitment to support Tanzania's reform process, reducing poverty and promoting development towards democracy and increased respect for human rights. In this regard, we would like to profoundly express our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Sweden for their continued support to LHRC in particular but also to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

We would also like to extend our appreciation and commend the good work done by the delegation of the Embassy of Sweden to Tanzania led by H.E Hon. Ambassador Anders Sjöberg.

For us (LHRC), this commitment by Sweden is a driving factor for us to scale up efforts in creating a culture of justice and respect for human rights among Tanzanians. This support has come at a right time when we are launching the implementation of our new strategic plan (2019 - 2024) aiming at addressing the shrinking freedoms and civil space for all persons, discrimination and violence against sections of the population- women, children and PWDs, and the growing concern for economic and environmental justice as the country progresses towards industrialisation driven by growth in the extractives and manufacturing.

We understand that, our work has with no doubt continued to be relevant to almost every Tanzanian, and having this in mind keeps us moving forward despite the growing challenges posed by the escalating threats against human rights activists as a result of the shrinking democratic and civic space in the country.

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Moving forward, we call on the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Parliament, the Judiciary, every Tanzanians and all other friends of human rights like Sweden to affirm their commitment towards attaining a Just and Equitable Society.

We once again, thank the Swedish Embassy for their continued support.



Anna Henga
Executive Director

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