

**STATEMENT BY MR. RAMADHANI M. KHIJJAH PERMANENT
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE FIVE YEAR
PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK IN SUPPORT OF THE
TANZANIAN NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV AND AIDS
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA HELD ON MARCH 04 2010 AT 3.00 PM,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

Your Excellency,
Mr. Alfonso E. Lenhardt,
Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Republic of
Tanzania,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Afternoon!

- 1.0 Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to express my gratitude for having this opportunity of signing with you, this Partnership Framework between the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of the United States of America for supporting the Tanzania National Response to HIV/AIDS.

- 2.0 **Your Excellency,** I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, to express our gratitude for the continued support by the Government of the United States of America to our efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Excellency, HIV/AIDS, poses serious challenges to our Government's efforts in fulfilling its development agenda to the citizens. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania presents its compliments to the Government of the United States of America in realising the profound and severe adverse effects of the epidemic to our economy and social wellbeing. HIV/AIDS is firstly the cause of tremendous human suffering. In addition to human

tragedies, there are dramatic long-term consequences. HIV/AIDS is an enormous impediment to development and leads to systemic institutional and economic damage, making the attainment of the international development targets more difficult. HIV/AIDS is also a major factor in the vicious circle that aggravates poverty and instability, which in turn increases countries' vulnerability to social destabilisation and conflicts.

Your Excellency, I am pleased to note the assistance provided by the US Government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through which your Government will contribute over \$337 million annually or \$1.65 billion in five years from 2009-2013 to the HIV and AIDS response on the mainland and Zanzibar. This framework articulates the expected contributions of our two countries to a durable and effective response to the HIV and AIDS crisis over a five year plan.

3.0 **Excellency,** We consider the Government of United States of America as one of Tanzania's long standing Development partners. We are pleased to note that the assistance provided by your government is intended to contribute towards the improvement of the health and well being of all citizens of Tanzania, with focus at those most at risk and that, this assistance encourages the health system to be more responsive to the essential needs of the people, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups.

4.0 **Your Excellency,** Tanzania appreciates this valuable support by the United States of America since the fight against HIV/AIDS is among the top priorities of the Government of Tanzania under the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The well being of the people of this country is premised on good health. The requirement for ensuring good health for all the Tanzanians is enormous, particularly in the wake of the threat of HIV/ AIDS and related health problems.

5.0 **Excellency**, let me conclude my remarks by once again extending our sincere appreciation to you and through you, to the Government and people of the United States of America for assisting us in the fight against HIV/AIDS and through other programmes such as the MCA Compact with a view to improve the well-being of our people. The Government of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to the pursuit of long term sound economic policy, good governance; and accountability, and its commitment to maintain and promote further the partnership and friendly relations with its Development Partners.

Let me also assure you that the assistance that will be provided under the Framework Agreement we have just signed will be prudently used for the intended purpose.

6.0 Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention.

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs,
March 04th, 2010