

SPEECH BY THE HON. FREDY ATUPELE MWAKIBETE, (MP), DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ISCOS ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS, 10TH MARCH 2022, IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

Protocol:

- **Hon. James Wainaina Macharia**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, Republic of Kenya and Chair of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers

- **Hon. General Edward Katumba Wamala**, Minister of Works and Transport of the Republic of Uganda and Member of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers,

- **Hon. Frank Museba Tayali, MP**, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Republic of Zambia and Member of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers,

- **Honourable Invited Ministers:**
 - Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Republic of Burundi;
 - Minister of Transport and Public and Works of the Republic of Burundi;

- Minister of Transport and Ways of Communications of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Minister of Transport of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia
- Minister Responsible for Transport, Republic of Malawi
- Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Mozambique,
- Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Sudan
- Minister of Transport of the Republic of Seychelles,
- Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of the Republic of Mauritius,
- Mr. Daniel Mwanza Kiange, Secretary General of ISCOS,
- CEOs of the Various Stakeholders Institutions of the Region,
- Representatives of Regional Economic Commissions, Stakeholders of the Shipping and Maritime Industry, Development Partners and representatives of the Maritime, Shipping and Logistics Institutions Present.

- Distinguished Participants,
- All protocols Observed,

Good Morning!

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to start by thanking Almighty God for keeping us alive and for giving us health, strength and opportunity to meet and discuss issues of our common interests for the benefits of our Member States and the Region at large.

Secondly, I would like to thank the host of this meeting for a warm welcome I received from the airport to the hotel and the venue of this meeting. Generally, I appreciate the hospitality of the organizers and the people of Uganda for their hospitality.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of Hon. Prof. Makame Mnyaa Mbarawa, the Minister of Works and Transport in the United Republic of Tanzania, I am privileged and honoured to have this opportunity of presenting the Statement of the United Republic of Tanzania to the 7th ISCOS Assembly of Ministers.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me a great pleasure to be part of this important meeting of the highest organ of ISCOS. From the onset, I wish to take note of the presence of our counterpart Ministers from our neighboring States and take this opportunity to appreciate their attendance despite their busy schedules and other pressing matters at home countries. Your attendance to this meeting signifies the value and the importance you attach to collaborations and togetherness.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are all aware that maritime transport (oceans, seas and inland waterways) is the major and cheapest mode of transport due to its higher carrying capacity which lowers the unit cost. The maintenance cost of maritime transport as a conveyor is very low compared to road and rail transport which we must look after and improve all the time. However, it is also a mode that cuts across political boundaries, traversing nations and continents. It is also a highly technical area which requires operational and managerial expertise.

The formation of ISCOS by States in the region was out of this realization and the need to have regionally coordinated approaches to matters of shipping and trade facilitation. As a region, we can agree that we have not fully exploited the competitive cost of maritime transport and we shall be

looking forward to benefiting from the expertise and experience of ISCOS in providing technical guidance and support.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to commend ISCOS on her advisory role. Members were advised on the need to enforce marine cargo insurance laws which prohibit offshore marine cargo insurance cover for their imports. I wish to report that Tanzania started its implementation from January 2018 by making amendments on the Insurance Act. Although the pace of implementation by local insurance is still low, we are making steady progress in this area and trying to remove all teething issues which come as a result of a new idea. I urge the Secretariat of ISCOS to continue coordinating and providing technical support to our regional and local insurance firms together with their stakeholders in their efforts to ensure MCI domestication becomes a success story in the region.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The importance of well trained and knowledgeable work force in specialized sectors like maritime transport cannot be overemphasized. The maritime transport sector requires both sea and land-based work force who are well equipped with industry knowledge that meet the expectations of employers. The need for pulling our resources together for proper training facilities commensurate to international standards cannot be over

emphasized. Our region is well placed to become a world basket for seafarers. I am happy that both of ISCOS' sea states, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Kenya are on the IMO – STCW Whitelist, meaning that we can produce seafarers who meet IMO standards.

However, even as we may produce internationally accepted seafarers, they do not have access to sea-time facilities or call it industrial training, which is a pre-requisite for their competencies as a matter of their career pathways. The Assembly should be armed to consider Member States capacity and priorities for engaging major world shipping lines to provide sea-time arrangements with our seafarers.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we move from land transport to maritime transport for the vast resource in the blue economy, we should note that our major water bodies, are shared by different States. Lake Victoria which is the largest Lake in Africa and second largest in the World, is shared by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Kenya. Lake Tanganyika is shared by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Republic of Burundi. In addition, Lake Nyasa which is shared by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Malawi and the Republic of Mozambique.

Therefore, joint efforts among adjoining states are required in harnessing the blue economy equitably and sustainably. For example, transport on Lake Victoria will flourish if, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya inland ports are

concurrently developed and maintained to handle same vessels at the same level of efficiency, because inefficiency on one port will negatively impact other ports. I wish to commend ISCOS for convening the Stakeholders' Forum for the Facilitation of Shipping and Trade across Lake Tanganyika, at which some issues hindering seamless flow of goods and passengers are deliberated.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Tanzania as a coastal state has continued to provide passage and facilitate the movement of transit goods through ports and along the corridor. We have implemented the Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway Project (DMGP) which involved deepening and strengthening of berths, the construction of a new multipurpose berth at Gerezani Creek, deepening and widening the entrance channel and turning basin in the port, and improving the rail linkages and platform in the port. Apart from Dar es Salaam port, we have expanded Mtwara port and rehabilitated the Tanga Port by increasing equipment and dredging to bring the ships at quay reducing operational costs at outer anchorage. These projects are aimed at doubling the throughput capacity, reducing vessel waiting time and berth occupancy while increasing operational productivity. Tanzania is committed to continue serving the transit markets better. I urge ISCOS to continue sensitizing importers and exporters to clear their cargo timely to avoid congesting port yards.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

No State in her own capacity can manage international maritime business alone, because of its nature. As coastal States, we can only facilitate the transit movement of cargo and manage operational issues. When it comes to regional policy matters of dealing with the multinational service providers, we need to be together. We need to be together to manage the Security of our Maritime bodies and facilities. We need to be together to develop our capacity in the sector because it requires enormous resources. It is the first step which is most important, and that first step is our appreciation of the importance of **walking** together and **working** together.

**Chairman, Members of Assembly and Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before winding up my speech, I wish to express my gratitude to the Co-ordination Committee for the proper preparation of this meeting. I also wish to congratulate the Secretary General Mr. Kiange and his team for the value adding programmes which have been implemented during the intervening period. I congratulate and appreciate Kenya for steering well our organization for the period of two years. I congratulate you Honorable Cabinet Secretary for the work well done. Finally, I would like to thank the host country, Uganda for the warm reception and for hosting us today.

With these few remarks I thank you for your attention and once again pray for the successful meeting.