

SPEECH BY HON. MWAKIBETE FREDY ATUPELE, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DURING THE 8TH MEETING OF THE ISCOS ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS (OPEN SESSION), HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2023, RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Hon. Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, Minister for Works and Transport in The Republic of Uganda and also a Chair of ISCOS Assembly of Ministers;

Hon. Salim Mvurya, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs in the Republic of Kenya and Member of ISCOS Assembly of Ministers;

Hon. Frank Museba Tayali, Minister of Transport and Logistics in the Republic of Zambia and Member of ISCOS Assembly of Ministers;

H.E. Bapaga Tepupileka Serge Didier, Ambassador of DRC to the Republic of Zambia representing Minister for Transport and Communication in the Democratic Republic of Congo who is also the Member of ISCOS Assembly of Ministers;

Invited Honourable Ministers;

Members of the ISCOS Coordination Committee;

Mr. Danie Mwanza Kiange, the Secretary General of ISCOS;

Chief Executive Officers and representatives of National, Regional, and international bodies

Stakeholders of the shipping and maritime industries

Members of the press present,

Good Morning

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for the gift of life and enabling us to participate in this important meeting. It gives me great honor to be part of this year ISCOS Assembly of Ministers. I appreciate the warm reception accorded to me and my delegation by our host the Government of Zambia and the ISCOS Secretariat. I say thank you very much.

Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen

I bring to you Many greetings from my President her excellency Dr.Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of United Republic of Tanzania.

But also 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 8th ISCOS Assembly of Ministers.

Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen

Secondly, let me take this opportunity to welcome and acknowledge our new Member, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), into ISCOS Membership. The decision to join ISCOS rejuvenates our collaboration agenda in the region and indeed by extension the African agenda on promotion of intra-regional trade. I also wish to

thank my colleagues, Ministers from our neighboring states for honoring our invitation to be part of this meeting. Your acceptance to attend this meeting creates a good environment for building greater collaboration among regional states. It is my wish that since we all share ISCOS' ideals you will soon follow DRC's steps and join ISCOS Membership so that together we can shape the shipping and maritime industry in our region. Just to quote Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, former president of URT who once said

“If we in the developing countries are to shape our own destiny and participate fully in shaping the future and the nature of the world in which we live in, we have to have an effective voice. But we will not have that effective voice if we do not work together, at least in some areas of vital concern to all of us. Together we can reduce our separate weaknesses. Acting together, we can become stronger; we can gain at least some more influence in the world”.

Based on that quote, it is high time for the shipping and maritime sector in the region to work collectively to shape the industry.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Agreement establishing ISCOS was signed in July, 1987 and the intention of establishing this important organ was among others to work together in the areas of Shipping industry in order to have a strong bargain power against shipping lines on the cost of transportation of goods by sea. The mandates of ISCOS continued to expand and included among others to provide technical advice to member countries on the shipping industry.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, among of the technical advice which was given by ISCOS to member countries is domestication of Marine Cargo Insurance (MCI). Acting on the advisory by ISCOS, the government of URT amended the law and started localization of MCI in January 2018. Since then, we have realized increased retention in the country of over Tshs 21.4 billion in 2021, money that could otherwise have been paid to foreign insurance companies and expatriated out of the country.

I urge the ISCOS Secretariat to continue coordinating national Marine Cargo Insurance stakeholders in their efforts to ensure MCI domestication becomes a success in the whole region and further to do more researches that will benefit member countries.

Honorable Ministers and Participants; after having said about ISCOS, let me inform you some few developments that are taking place in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Honorable Ministers and Participants; In order to improve service delivery in the region, the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) has modernized the Dar es Salaam port by strengthening and deepening of berths 1-7 and RORO terminal, dredging of the entrance channel, turning circle and harbour basin, strengthening, and deepening of container berths 8-11 and construction of a new berth at Gerezani creek. The port now can handle bigger vessels with a load capacity of up to 70,000 tons and the programme is set to increase the port

capacity to 28 million metric tons annually by 2025. To move the cargo from the port, URT is constructing Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza branching from Tabora to Kigoma and from Isaka to Keza connecting to Burundi, Rwanda and DRC.

URT has also, upgraded, and renovated Tanga port thus ships are able to anchor at berth unlike before when they used load and discharge at outer anchorage. The port capacity has been enhanced to handle more cargo to the tune of three million metric tons from the previous capacity of 750,000 metric tons. Mtwara port was also expanded to be able to accommodate bigger ships. All these investments are made to increase capacity and efficient of Tanzanian Ports so as to benefit URT and the entire region.

Distinguished Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude my speech, I wish to assure Members once again that, Tanzania as a coastal state is fully committed to providing passage for transit cargo to and from land-linked states not only as an obligation but also for cordial and brotherly relationships with neighboring states in the spirit of greater regional collaboration in shipping and maritime affairs.

Distinguished Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express my gratitude to the ISCOS Coordination Committee for the proper preparation of this meeting. I also wish to congratulate the

Secretariat for the programmes which have been implemented and urge them to continue implementing the programmes agreed upon at the regional level. I congratulate and appreciate Uganda as Chair for steering the organization well. I appreciate you Honorable Minister for the work well done.

Finally, I would like to thank the host country, Zambia for the warm reception and for hosting us, and lastly my counterpart ministers and other dignitaries for finding time from your busy schedule to attend this meeting.

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

ASANTENI SANA KWA KUNISIKILIZA