

A SPEECH BY MS. REGINA KIKULI, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; DURING OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP ON EXPLORING PREEMPTIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

*BEST WESTERN CORAL BEACH HOTEL,
DAR ES SALAAM,
20 AND 21 APRIL, 2015*

Acting Director, Department of Regional Cooperation;
Director – IORA;
Director – Disaster Management Department;
Representatives from UNICEF and WHO;
Members of Press (media);
Distinguished Delegates and Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

First and foremost I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this event for inviting me to officiate the two day Workshop on “Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to Ensuring Community Resilience”. On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like also to take this opportunity to welcome all who came from outside Tanzania. I trust that you will find some spare time to experience the beauty of Dar es Salaam. In addition travelling to Bagamoyo, Zanzibar the Spice Island as well Saadan National Parks will be worthwhile experience during your stay in Tanzania.

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to convey sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for their support in preparation of this workshop. The government appreciates the invaluable support in disaster preparedness which has been established under the Secretariat priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government of Tanzania like many other governments, is highly concerned over the country's vulnerability to disasters, and more so on inadequate mechanisms and capacity to reduce and cope with the vulnerability, to prepare for such events if predictable, and respond to the people's needs in an effective manner once the disaster has taken place.

Tanzania has experienced a number of natural and man-made disasters. These include floods, drought, pests, epidemics, fire, accidents, cyclones/strong winds, conflicts, landslides, earthquakes, technological disasters which has led to lose of life and damage to properties and infrastructure. Also, economic activities our countries are affected by climate/ weather related events. The extreme events experienced have caused impact in various sectors such as business, agriculture, energy, infrastructure etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

This workshop will be a good opportunity to share experiences, ideas and major developments in the field of emergency preparedness and planning how to reduce vulnerability to natural,

environmental and technological hazards in our countries. In addition, it shall emphasize on the importance of cooperation in emergency planning and response.

Disaster management requires having in place a well establish community based early warning systems and emergency preparedness and response plans and communication strategies which involve the disadvantaged communities being susceptible to disaster. On the government side, we have been striving to ensure appropriate policies, strategies, plans and guidelines are in place and are understood by all stakeholders for the intended purposes. Despite this determination, larger part of the local population is yet to be reached and put in place a well coordinated emergency management plans.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Given the complex and diverse nature of vulnerability of poor communities, the focus of risk reduction approaches should be the local communities' level. It is at the local level whereby the initial life saving and emergency services are provided. It is also at this stage at which health, economic and social factors can be best assessed and managed.

This workshop presents a very useful opportunity to learn through how member countries coordinate and plan for major disaster especially those occurring the Indian Ocean coast. This has therefore made the government to accord high importance to this workshop and the same is observed as all of you have travelled miles away to be part of it. We should take this event as a learning opportunity from each other and use it to identify areas of collaboration in respect with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to throw a challenge to our government that preparedness at different levels by different actors should essentially be improved. There is a need to invest more in long-term capacity development of governmental and non-governmental actors in this particular field. Risk reduction strategies should capitalise on the social, economic, cultural and political and attitudinal capabilities. Existing local mechanisms for managing risk should be identified and strengthened; and efforts targeted at developing economic resilience should be integrated with overall disaster risk management.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my sincere hope this event will enrich our knowledge and improve the capacity to prepare and respond to various emergencies to enhance resilience in our communities. I would also like to register our appreciation to the Secretariat of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association** and the local organizers that is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and our Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office.

*With these few remarks I wish to declare the **Workshop on "Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to Ensuring Community Resilience"** officially opened.*

I thank you for your attention.