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STATEMENT  
BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SALIM A. SALIM,  
WATER AMBASSADOR for AFRICA,  
AT THE STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE ON  
WATER AND SUSTANABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA  
15 APRIL 2001, ACCRA GHANA

in

Your Excellency, President John Kufuor, ~~the~~ President of the  
Republic of Ghana,

Your Royal Highness, the Prince of Orange,

*Your Royal Highness Prince Narmin.  
- all other members of the team.*

Your Excellencies, Ministers responsible for the Water Sector

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the organizers for inviting me to participate at this important conference. This conference is an important milestone on the road to better water management in Africa. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Ghana and all those involved in the organization of this conference, for the warm reception extended to us all. *and the excellent arrangements made for the conference.*

About two months ago, the President of the African Development Bank requested me to take on the challenge to act as the African Water Ambassador.

SINCE in all my many years of national, continental and international public involvement, I have not been dealing directly with the subject,

This responsibility *inter alia* entails promoting water issues in our continent and soliciting support on international arenas. Such sensitization and mobilization of support aims towards effective utilization of African water resources in order to bring about sustainable development.

I consider it to be an honour and great privilege to be asked to take up this task. While being conscious of my own ~~state over the years I have not been dealing directly with the subject~~ limitations, <sup>nonetheless</sup> I accepted the challenge bearing in mind the importance of water as a critical resource in social, economic and environmental security.

The fact that most countries in Africa share common rivers or lake basins, is particularly significant. This is because under this situation, the use of our water resources for sustainable development can best be achieved through creative collaboration and cooperation between our countries. I will therefore do my utmost to assist in promoting and nurturing this cooperation.

Ten years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development, we are preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will provide an opportunity to assess how far we have gone in realizing our collective goals.

Ten years ago, commitments were made and actions were defined to address the areas of water for drinking, water for food security, climate change and its impacts on water resources, and water for sustainable development.

It has been recognized that, despite domestic and international actions, there is still a major gap in the implementation of Agenda 21. Ten years after Rio, the world is still confronted with the challenges of endemic poverty, unsustainable development and environmental degradation.

Therefore, the Johannesburg Conference should help us to re-commit and re-dedicate ourselves to confront the challenges of sustainable development. It is for this reason that I consider this conference of water stakeholders to be particularly important.

Water is a key to sustainable development, crucial to its social, economic and environmental dimensions. Every human being, now and in the future, should have enough clean water for drinking and sanitation, and enough for productive activities at reasonable and affordable cost.



Providing adequate water to meet these basic needs must be done in an equitable manner that allows adequate amount of water to be set aside for environmental needs.

In Africa, much remains to be done as we are still far from this ideal situation. Many parts of Africa are suffering from alternating floods and droughts due to poor temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall.

The developmental dimension of water resources has hardly been exploited in our continent. It is estimated that we are currently using only 4% of our annual renewable water resources.

The challenge of responding to the water needs of more than 300 million people in Africa, seems very daunting. But it is a challenge that can and must be overcome.

The issues concerning the water resource require the full involvement of all of us and we cannot afford to relegate them to being merely technical or sectoral.

To address the opportunities and threats associated with water management, an African Water Vision is being considered. The vision emphasizes equitable and

sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment.

At regional level, the vision calls for partnership and solidarity between countries that share common water basins.

At national levels, it requires fundamental changes in policies, strategies and legal frameworks, as well as changes in institutional arrangements and management practices.

At global level, it urges for assistance from Africa's development partners in mobilizing seed funding for setting in motion the urgent developments needed to underpin sustainable water resources management in the continent.

In the role that has been assigned to me to promote water issues, I pledge to do my utmost in promoting Africa's interests on this important sector in the context of the African Water Vision, and in the light of the various initiatives being undertaken in the continent.

Let me at this juncture stress the importance of sensitizing all our people and leaders on the imperative of conserving and efficiently deploying the water resource. Moreover, we need to explore ways and means of developing viable strategies for ensuring sustainable investments by our governments and the private sector in harnessing this resource.

I am confident that as a result of these consultations here in Accra, and later in Abuja we will reach a common position on the key priorities and also build necessary political support and legitimacy within the framework of OAU/AU and position our efforts in the context of the NEPAD Program. We should arrive in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as other international fora such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, promoting a clearly articulated <sup>AFRICAN</sup> and unified position and expectations.

Finally, I reaffirm my commitment to work closely with you and other water stakeholders, together with the Task Force, the Africa Development Bank and other Institutions driving this process, towards the achievement of our goals.

I thank you.



## **Haraka Sana**

**Nyerere Foundation,**

**Tafadhali sana, naomba upeleke hiyo taarifa kweye vyombo vya habari**

- 1. ITV**
- 2. DTV**
- 3. Star**
- 4. Redio Tanzania**
- 5. Magazeti ya Uhuru, Mwananchi, Majira, Anipashe**

**Jitahidi taarifa hii itoke bila kuchelewa**

**Fred Mpendazoe**



## **TAARIFA KATIKA VYOMBO VYA HABARI**

**Mkutano wa Wadau juu ya usimamizi na matumizi bora na endelevu ya maji Afrika ummefunguliwa leo 15.4 2002 na Rais wa Ghana Mheshimiwa John A. Kufour. Mkutano huo umehudhuliwa na washiriki zaidi ya 150 Kutoka Afrika na mashirika mbali mbali ya Kimataifa.**

**Mheshiwa DK Salinu A. Salim ambaye hivi Karibuni amechaguliwa Kuwa Balozi wa Maji wa Afrika alikaribishwa kuhutubia mkutano huo muhimu.**

**Mheshiwiwa Dk Salim A.Salim, kama Balozi wa Maji wa Afrika atakuwa msemaji mkuu wa masuala ya maji Afrika katika maandalizi ya Mkutano wa Kimataifa juu ya Maendeleo Eudelevu utakaofanyika Johannesburg Afrika ya Kusiui mwezi Septemba 2002.**

**Katika hotuba yake Mheshimiwa Dk Salim A. Salim alisisitiza:**

- 1. Amekubali uteuzi wa kuwa Balozi na Msemaji mkuu wa masuala ya maji Afrika kutokana na ukweli kwamba maji ni mhimu kwa maisha na maendeleo ya binaadamu kwa kila hali na pia maji ni muhimu sana katika utunzaji wa maziugira.**
- 2. Aidha, alisisitiza kwamba Afrika bado haijaweza kuitumia rasilimali ya maji Katika kujiletea maendeo na kuboresha maisha. Akitoa mfano, inakadiriwa kwamba ni asilimia 4 tu ya maji safi yanayopatikana Afrika yanatumika katika shughuli mbali mbali za maendeleo.**
- 3. Kutokana na ukweli kwamba mabonde mengi ya mito yanachangiwa na nchi nyingi, Mheshimiwa Dk Salim .A Salim alisisitiza kwamba matumizi bora ya maji yatapatikana tu iwapo kutakuwepo na ushirikiano wa hali ya juu katika nchi husika. Hivyo, atajitabidi kutumia wadhifa wake kama Balozi wa Maji Afrika kuinua kiwango cha ushirikiano baina ya nchi zinazochangia mabonde ya mito au maziwa.**

4. Aidha, Mheshiwa Dk Salim A Salim alilisisitiza suala la uhamasishaji juu ya matumiizi bora na endelevu wa maji Afrika upewe kipaumbele katika nchi za Afrika.
5. Mwisho, Mheshimiwa Dk Salim A Salim alizitaka nchi za Afrika kuwa na msimamo mmoja katika mazungumzo ya kimataifa juu ya maendeleo endelevu utakao fanyika Johannesburg Afrika ya Kusini na wakati wa mkutano wa tatu wa masuala ya maji duniani utakaofanyika Japani mwaka 2003.

Katika mkutano wa Accra Ghana Mheshimiwa Dk Saim A Salim amefuatatan na ndugu Fred Mpendazoe mtalaamu wa maji na mazingira kutoka Bodi Kuu ya Maji, katika Wizara ya Maji na Maendeleo ya Mifugo. Aidha, mtanzania mwingine aliyehudhuria mkutano huo ni Professa Nuhu Hatibu mtaalamu kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Sokoine ambaye aliwakilisha Shirika la Utafiti wa masuala ya maji kwa ajili ya kilimo katika Afrika ya Mashariki na Kati.

Fred Mpendazoe.  
Accra Ghana, 15.4.2002

*File*

To Prof Fred Nuhu HATIBU  
SOKOINE UNIVERSITY

Dear Prof.

I read about you in a brief report sent to our office from Accra where you were attending a meeting on water with Dr. Salim A-Salim. I would like to talk to you about water for irrigation in Tanzania. Please contact me on your return to Dar es Salaam on 0741-334 275. @  
JWS



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