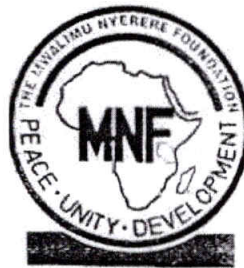


# THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION



**REMARKS BY**

**DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL TRAVEL AGENTS AWARDS**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2004  
NEW AFRICA HOTEL  
DAR ES SALAAM

**Remarks by Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim  
At the Oman Air Reception on the Occasion of  
The Annual Travel Agents Awards**

Mr. Abdul Rahman Albusaidy  
Chief Executive Officer – OMAN AIR

Mrs Elham Albdusaidy, Manager, East Africa, OMAN AIR

Mr. Ziad Alharemi,

Divisional Commercial Manager, OMAN AIR

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here with you this evening. I wish to thank Mrs Iham Albusaidy for her kind invitation which has made our presence here possible. I would like at the very outset to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend OMAN AIR for her operations in East Africa and especially in Tanzania.

It is noteworthy that as OMAN AIR marks the third Anniversary of its operations in East Africa it has now increased its flights up to five a week to Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Mombasa. By so doing, it is providing an important link between the Gulf and East Africa – a link which is important in the overall relations between our countries and sub regions and a link which by virtue of historical, cultural and other ties between our peoples need to be consolidated and further enhanced. When the Bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed in 1982 between the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Sultanate of Oman, these were among the factors under consideration. As Minister

of Foreign Affairs of my country during that period, I was associated with the signing of that Agreement. I believed then as I do now that the opening of regular means of transportation between countries and regions is a key and indeed central factor in promoting cooperation in its multifaceted dimensions.

AIR TANZANIA was the first to make use of and benefit from that Agreement. Gulf Air followed and eventually OMAN AIR whose third Anniversary of operations we are happy to acknowledge and celebrate. Now that the GULF AIR has pulled out its operations in EAST AFRICA, OMAN AIR has even a much greater potential to expand its operations in the region. I therefore hope that sooner rather than later instead of OMAN AIR operating five flights a week, it will have daily flights to East Africa.

This hope is not based on wishful thinking. Rather, it is premised on the realities on the ground. The potential for tourism in Tanzania in particular and East Africa in general is enormous. A lot remain untouched. East Africa is indeed poised for a big role as a Global tourist destination. Presently most of our tourists come from Europe. There is however no reason why tourists from the Gulf countries should not come and enjoy the beauty and serenity of our countries as well as the friendliness and generosity of our peoples. I hope that OMAN AIR will take this as a challenge for it is in a unique position to play an important and even a vital role in this important endeavour.

During my tenure of twelve years as Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity, I worked very closely with the successive Secretaries General of the League of Arab States in the implementation of the decisions taken by both African and Arab Heads of State and Government in promoting Afro-Arab Cooperation in the socio, economic and cultural fields in addition to strengthening political ties. Throughout this exercise we were conscious of the vital role of transport and communications in the achievement of this objective. There have been some successes but these are not that significant when we consider the great potential that lie unexplored and unexploited. The AFRICAN UNION and other African Sub-Regional Organizations like the East African Community and the League of Arab States and sub-regional organisations like the GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL can and indeed should work tirelessly to strengthen these ties and overcome the current anachronism of two regions – both belonging to the developing world and having so much in common besides the geographical proximity and yet not been able to make full use of their conspicuous assets. In this context, relations between the Gulf States and East Africa can be a catalyst in the strategic relations of the two partner regions. And here, OMAN AIR, with its commitment to providing not only service but quality service can make a major contribution. For the concept of Airline business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in this new millennium is not just transporting people but also creating awareness for the new markets and helping countries to come closer culturally, economically and socially for mutual benefit.



Thus from both a business and strategic perspective, it is my confident hope that OMAN AIR will make full use of the experience gained thus far in its three years of operation in East Africa and will endeavour to consolidate and expand its operations and do so in a most cost effective and at the same time top quality performance and delivery of its products. The peoples of the Gulf and East Africa who are your valued customers expect no less. Given the stiff competition in the Airline industry and the need to satisfy the customers, OMAN AIR has no option but to do that. Given also its history and the dedication of its management and staff, I am confident that it will live up to the challenge.

In conclusion, let me once again thank you for the invitation to this wonderful evening and let me convey my congratulations in advance to all those who will be receiving awards to night.

Ahsanteni sana. Shukran Jazillan. Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.