

H.E. Salim Ahmed Salim

**SPEECH BY H.E. SALIM AHMED SALIM
CHAIRMAN OF THE MWALIMU NYERERE
FOUNDATION
ON THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE HAKIELIMU OFFICE BUILDING
16TH JUNE, 2003**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to join you all at this opening ceremony of the HAKIELIMU Office Building.

It is a truism that basic education is a fundamental right for all children, girls and boys. It is not a matter of charity. This right is an inalienable right that cannot be withheld

*Chairman -
Nany Kusi Sr.
Joyce
Dance
Sten Rylade
Mr. Ahmed Salim*

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from any child. This right is recognized in the Tanzania Constitution; African Charter on the Rights and Welfare for the Child; the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recently at the World Education Forum in Dakar in April 2000. Education is vital to human resource development and is a prerequisite for the advancement of girls and women in particular. It is also vital to democratic functioning including critical thinking, creativity and good governance.

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It is a happy coincidence that this ceremony is taking place on this day when we are observing "**The Day of the African Child**". We recall the **Soweto Uprisings** during which 2000 school children were brutally massacred by the Apartheid regime. And what was their crime? These and thousands other children on that fateful day of June 16, 1976 were peacefully marching to protest the inferior education that was being given to them by the Apartheid regime. They were demanding better education. # The quest

It was with Soweto Uprisings when Soweto happened.

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for better education has continued for all the children of our continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking at Contemporary Operative Education Situation in Tanzania we note from HAKIELIMU research findings that basic education is in a state of crisis. According to these findings, it is pointed out that the quality of basic education is poor; net enrolments have dropped; classrooms are overcrowded; there are several shortages of books and teaching materials; most teachers

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lack morale, support and bankable competence; only 6% of primary school leavers get access to government sponsored secondary education; less than half of all Tanzanians complete primary school; teacher student relationship are marked by apathy and violence rather than caring or mutual respect; sexual harassment of girls by some teachers and male students is quite common and performance is weak, with less than 80% passing Primary School Leaving Examinations.

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In short there is a lot to be done for pupils to develop requisite skills, aptitudes, creativity and confidence that are vital to life. If this is the case, then there is a massive work ahead to be done by all concerned ^{including} institutions ^{such as} ~~as well as~~ HAKIELIMU, in order to achieve the desired productive basic education basing on the perceived "basic minimum levels."

I have noted in HAKIELIMU Annual Report 2002 that since HAKIELIMU was founded early 2001 you have made

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commendable strides in Community Governance Programmes; Public Engagement Programmes which include Promotion of Public Participation in Education Governance; Policy Analysis, Advocacy Programmes and Organizational Development. All these endeavours by HAKIELIMU justify the much asked questions on how to achieve quality education; the practical definition of what is effective schooling and **above all** on how to achieve the basic minimum levels of education.

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This is a challenge to our government, local and international institutions like HAKIELIMU and Tanzanian educationists at large. It is axiomatic that we look and bank on our teachers and educational managers, leaders and administrators to deliver. We bank on the parents to create the desired cultural capital to enable our children to excel better in schools, particularly from the Kindergarten level and at most we bank on the government to continue to design ways and means geared to produce practical

curriculum, which take into account the needs of the society in the ever-changing world.

As we open this office building, we are optimistic that these challenges are taken into account. We expect to have more research and that the findings are published and circulated to the user system and particularly at the base level of stakeholders who are ~~always~~ ^{quite often} forgotten. HAKIELIMU has gone beyond publishing easy read materials both in Swahili and English. I hope these do reach those in villages and School Committees.

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Achieving better education needs good governance. Good governance intertwined with transparency are key conditions for promoting growth, poverty reduction and human rights. Tanzania is committed to ensuring good governance as rightly spelt out in the Tanzania Vision 2005 – on Poverty Reduction Strategy. Our President has personally and rightly emphasized on good governance, truthfulness, and transparency. All administrative and sectoral reforms stress good governance. Legislations to accommodate these changes have been

Education must be taken in by every person.
Not only giving the quality education but also
create a trust in the merit.

passed. Our Government has declared a policy
of "**Zero tolerance**" on corruption.

Yet despite all these commendable
efforts, ^{we still have financial obstacles} ~~Corruption~~ continues to undermine the
_{to a scale}
fabric of our society. Corruption, with all its
ramification, undermines trust in public
institutions including education; reduces
growth; increases social inequality; reduces
revenue collection available to cater for social
services and increases disincentives to
investors and entrepreneurs. The list of the
^{ILLS}
crises that are associated with corruption is

indeed long. Suffice it to say that it severely undermines the very fabric of society.

It is my hope that the work of the HAKIELIMU in these ^{revised} ~~new~~ premises will be to think hard on how to contribute effectively in our common struggle against this evil. You will be able to provide a forum for peoples' democratic participation and discussion on how to combat the ills of corruption through educating the community.

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Before I conclude let me briefly refer to the burning issue of the HIV AIDS pandemic. I believe it is important for this question to be given priority and prominent importance in our education. The impact of HIV on the education sector, particularly the need of AIDS orphans and AIDS affected teachers who need immediate attention is great. This needs to be given maximum priority if we need to improve the education sector.

Finally, the issue of gender equality needs to be given its due importance. The

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prevalence of inadequate physical facilities and uncondusive learning environment which culminate into the underperformance of girls in national examinations must be taken head-on. The implementation of PEDP (Primary Education Development Programme) being a gigantic challenge, needs a close working environment between the NGO Community, the Government parents and the local communities who own and manage schools.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us unite together to ^{ENSURE} ~~make~~ sure that our children both girls and boys get better education that will fit the ever changing environment they are living in as well as an education which enables them to be well trained and be able to hold their own in this highly competitive globalising world.

I thank all those of you who have made it possible for the construction of this

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impressive office building and wish all of you
at HAKIELIMU success in your endeavours.

Thank you very much for your kind
attention.