

# **THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION**



**SPEECH BY**

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**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF EXHIBITIONS IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY**

19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004  
ROYAL PALM HOTEL  
DAR ES SALAAM

Speech by Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim  
On the Occasion of the Official Opening of  
Exhibitions in Commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Africa Industrialization Day

Your Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Permanent  
Representatives,  
Chairman of the Tanzania Federation of Industries (CTI),  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a singular privilege and indeed a great honour for me to participate with you all in the commemoration of African Industrialization Day through the official opening of the Exhibitions which constitute an integral part of making this significant occasion. I wish to thank the organizers of this year's event for the kind invitation which has made my presence here possible.

When the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) took decision of declaring this Day, November 19<sup>th</sup> "Africa Industrialization Day", it was obvious to the international community that our continent needed such a reminder which could serve *interalia* as a catalyst in stimulating numerous processes of industrialization.

Tanzania has joined other African countries in commemorating Africa industrialization Day because we are all cognizant of the importance of industrialization in promoting economic growth. Economic Growth can come about through change. This change should be stimulated by industrialization. It is very crucial therefore that every developing country and Tanzania in particular should underline the changes that are needed to better **sharpen our industrialization focus.**

Our continent is the home of the majority of Least Developed Countries including Tanzania. This fact in itself poses countless challenges for all actors in extricating these countries out of the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

We are living in a constantly changing World. International trade, economy and finance have assumed a global character, which has unleashed a global competition spiral. Everything is going over everything else hence our globalized world economy. The most advanced countries, we are told, have become post-industrial societies and yet for most of our countries in Africa, we are still struggling to achieve meaningful industrialization. It would seem the gap is not narrowing either.

The state of Africa's industrialization is clearly unsatisfactory. But this should not be a point for mere lamentation. Rather we should view it as a challenge wherein lies opportunities. Over the years technology has both significantly improved and has become cheaper hence its availability on the market. This coupled with a low-cost labour market should spear the spread of industrialization in our countries.

It is important that I emphasize the fact that the state of the art of technology, which is a product of industrialization, hinges as never before on the rapidity of knowledge. Hence the term knowledge-based economy. This reflects various changes and transformations, which have and continue to take place since" African Industrialization Day was promulgated 15 years ago.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this year's commemoration is "Industry for Poverty Reduction." It is important that Tanzania should narrow up her focus and

concentrate on those areas that will give impressive results in the shortest period. As has been mentioned at various forums that it is a supreme irony that African countries continue to be in poverty in spite of abundance of natural resources. By judiciously using industrialization Tanzania can move fast through the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals including in particular in the area of poverty reduction. Tanzania should continue to gear all her work to the fact that **development must be country owned and country driven**. Let us therefore in our efforts at industrialization initially embrace primary industry and Tertiary Industry.

Distinguished Guests,

Tanzania has already made necessary preparations to enable the effective use of **Agriculture and selective service industries** to act the main drivers of sustainable economic growth. Our country should be able to process all agricultural commodities to form foodstuffs or industrial raw materials. In this regard, few lead sub-sectors including food processing, textiles and leather have been selected. The Small and Medium Enterprises policy will go a long way to enhance the productive capacity of our people in Tanzania as long as we address the causes that have for many years caused the poor performance of Agriculture, livestock and service industries like trade, commerce and transportation.

Distinguished Guests,

I believe we must treat industrialization as a challenge and an opportunity for promoting development and fighting poverty. As we go forward we should widen the areas of focus to include such sectors as production of power from Coal and production of iron from iron ore. The potential is enormous and so is the challenge.



With these few remarks, now I declare that this exhibition for the commemoration of 15<sup>th</sup> Africa Industrialization Day is officially opened.

Thank you for attention.