

MEDIA BRIEFING ON STATE VISIT BY H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- Your Excellency Dear Sister Samia Suluhu Hassan
- Honourable Ministers
- Senior Staff Officers
- Members of the Media here present;

1. President Samia Suluhu Hassan and I have just held talks as part of her historical and first State Visit to Burundi;

2. We focused our discussions on bilateral and regional issues.

3. I took this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for the support Tanzania's Government has granted so far to Burundi, particularly in difficult times, since the early years of independence.

4. As a symbol of solidarity and sympathy, Tanzania's Government has sent a very high level delegation to attend, in Gitega, the funeral of late beloved President Pierre Nkurunziza and Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan was part of them.

5. So soon after the demise of President Nkurunziza, Tanzanians Brothers and Sisters were hit by similar difficulties, losing their beloved President, John Pombe Magufuli, and we sent a high level delegation to Tanzania to show them, in turn, our solidarity and support.

6. I noted with regret the recent development at the Kariakoo market that was set ablaze in Dar Es Salaam, a huge loss and blow for the Tanzanian, Burundian and East African Peoples.

7. During our discussions, we agreed on various key issues of mutual interest:

We appreciated the fact that Burundi and Tanzania have the same political and diplomatic reading at different levels especially the shared East African Community at all levels, the African Union, the United Nations as well as other international fora;

8. I thanked Tanzania for hosting Burundians during times of conflict and for its willingness to facilitate their continued voluntary repatriation to their motherland;

9. As Tanzania is clearly more advanced in the fields of Civil Service and Governance; I asked Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan that her Government helps in the training of officials from the Burundi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation as well as other sectors to be agreed on.

10. We agreed to continue strengthening Peace and Security on shared borders; work hand in hand to counter terrorism, trade of narcotics, light weapons as well as the human trafficking in the respective countries. In brief; we stand ready in fighting together all forms of trans-border crimes;

11. We agreed to increase cooperation and exchange of experiences concerning the climate change and disaster management;

12. I appreciated a great deal the fact that Tanzania has carried almost single handedly the burden of Burundi weights. Thank God, the new situations have pointed to new horizons of hope for both peoples.

13. We agreed to continue exchanging experience in the field of Agriculture and Livestock and in practical terms, the need for Burundian and Tanzanian cooperatives to work hand in hand during all steps of production as well as granting Burundian farming companies access to Tanzanian land in order to increase output ;

14. Talking about exchanging experiences, expressed my delight that a Burundian company ITRACOM that manufactures fertilizers is in the process of opening a plant on Tanzanian soil and we both celebrate this new form of cooperation at the highest level within the East African Community.

15. We are committed to continue working together towards a prosperous future for our countries by strengthening our bilateral trade;

16. We invited the citizens of our countries to continue doing business across the borders especially by investing in ICT, industry, banking, food processing sectors, transport, etc.

17. We asked all stakeholders involved in the project of the Standard Rail Way Uvinza-Musongati-Gitega/Bujumbura-Uvira-Kindu, especially the bit that concerns Burundi and Tanzania to fast-track the launch of construction activities;

18. Finally, we agreed to continue combining efforts in the fight against the global Covid-19 pandemic as well as other cross border diseases.