

**SPEECH OF HON. AMB. DR. PINDI HAZARA CHANA  
(MP) DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH LAW MINISTERS' MEETING  
DELIVERED ON 04<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024 AT GOLDEN TULIP  
AIRPORT – ZANZIBAR**

- *Your Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania;*
- *Honourable Hemed Suleiman Abdalla, Second Vice President, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar;*
- *Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General,;*
- *Honourable Zubeir Ali Maulid, Speaker of the House of Representatives in Zanzibar;*
- *Honourable Prof. Ibrahim Khamis Juma, Chief Justice of the United Republic of Tanzania;*
- *Honourable Khamis Ramadhan Abdalla, Chief Justice of Zanzibar;*
- *Honourable. Mussa Azan Zungu, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania*
- *Honourable Haroun Ali Suleiman, Minister of State-President's Office - Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar;*

- ***Amb. Dr. Moses Mpogole Kusiluka***, *Chief Secretary of the United Republic of Tanzania;*
- ***Engineer Zena Ahmed Said***, *Secretary of the Revolutionary Council and Chief Secretary of the Revolutionary Government Zanzibar;*
- ***Honorable Ministers and Attorney Generals*** *from Commonwealth Member Countries;*
- ***Honorable High commissioners present here;***
- ***Permanent Secretaries*** *from Government Ministries from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar;*
- ***Government representatives*** *from different Ministries, Departments and Agencies;*
- ***Development Partners present here;***
- *Representatives from Non-State Actors;*
- *Distinguished guests;*
- *Ladies and gentlemen.*

It is with great honor and privilege that I welcome you all to the Meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers and Senior Officials. This gathering stands as another testament to our collective commitment, as a Commonwealth and Tanzania in particular, to

advancing the rule of law, justice, and equality within the jurisdictions of our member states.

The Commonwealth has always served as a beacon of cooperation, collaboration, and shared values. Since its establishment, Member Countries have always shared a common goal of upholding democracy, peace and development. As we convene here today, as Law Ministers, we reaffirm our dedication to upholding these principles and working together to address the legal challenges of our time.

**Your Excellency;**

This meeting presents a unique opportunity for us to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange best practices, and forge partnerships that will enable us to overcome the legal hurdles facing our member countries. From promoting access to justice to strengthening legal frameworks, our discussions over the coming days will contribute in shaping the future of law and governance within the Commonwealth countries.

**Your Excellency;**

In this meeting, Law Ministers from member countries of the Commonwealth will focus on key legal issues that need to be prioritized and considered in the Twenty-First Century through the theme of “*Technology and Innovation: How Digitilization Paves the Way for the Development of People-Centered Access to Justice.*”

To this end, Ministers and Senior Officials, will deliberate and agree on how our countries should focus on the effective use of technology to facilitate access to justice for our citizens.

**Your Excellency;**

Your personal dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law has not only strengthened our nation but has also served as a pillar of hope for nations across the Commonwealth and beyond. Your unwavering commitment to justice and equality serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the importance of our collective responsibility in advancing the cause of justice and human rights.

**Your Excellency;**

The United Republic of Tanzania plays a pivotal role within our Commonwealth family, and we look forward to your insights and perspectives on the critical issues before us. Your presence here

today, despite your busy schedules, honors us all, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to hear your insights and guidance as we embark on this important gathering.

We equally remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and fostering inclusive legal systems that ultimately serve all members of our society. Together, we can build a Commonwealth where justice and equality reign supreme.

Your Excellency,

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate Your Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as true champion and supporter of human rights, rule of law and access to justice in Tanzania.

Recently, among many reforms initiated by H.E the President, one reforms deserve to be mentioned in the context of our Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting.

HE President, has recently appointed a *Presidential Criminal Justice Commission* to review challenges associated with criminal justice system and make necessary recommendations. Indeed, some of recommendations are now being implemented. This has

already positively changed the entire landscape of criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the Directorate of Human Rights at the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs has embarked on a countrywide legal aid campaign to raise public awareness on legal education and human rights, particularly women and children's rights but also to improve the provision of legal aid.

This legal aid campaign is known by the name of "*Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign*", and it is fully funded by the government budget.

Due to time, I invite all participants to 'google' on these timely reforms and see our true hero of justice in the country and beyond.

Your Excellency,

Without further ado, Ladies and Gentlemen please join me in extending the warmest welcome to our esteemed H.E Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to deliver the opening address of the 2024 Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting.

**Thank you.**