

**STATEMENT BY HON DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM, FORMER
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 61st ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH ON 8TH MARCH 2010**

Your Excellency Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,

**Your Excellency Dr. Ishaya Majanbu, High Commissioner of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria and our dear host,**

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

**Sir Andy Chande, Honorary Representative of the Royal
Commonwealth Society,**

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Guests,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, let me begin by expressing sincere gratitude to the Royal Commonwealth Society under the able leadership of Sir Andy Chande for coordinating once again this event to commemorate the Commonwealth Day.

My special thanks go to His Excellency Dr. Ishaya Majanbu, the High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his generosity in hosting this year's Commonwealth Day reception at his residence.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we gather here to mark this Day, I wish to take this opportunity to recall that these celebrations are taking place after the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago from 27th to 29th November 2009 under the theme “**Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future**”.

At this very successful meeting, a number of highly important decisions were made that require Member States to be in the driver's seat to implement them. These pertinent decisions made after frank deliberations, continue to demonstrate that the Commonwealth as an institution, is very much relevant as it is still able to address and face the global challenges affecting its Members and the wider international community at large.

In light of these celebrations, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rwanda for becoming the 54th member of the organization. You may recall that Rwanda was accepted in the Commonwealth on 29th November 2009 during the Commonwealth meeting in Trinidad & Tobago. Therefore, it is only befitting that today Rwanda is celebrating the hosting of its flag at the Commonwealth Headquarters in London, England.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting was able to reaffirm, among others, the importance of science, technology and innovation vis-a-vis the challenges confronting the world today. It is thus befitting that Her Majesty The Queen and Head of the Commonwealth decided to have this year's Commonwealth Day theme "**Science, Technology and Society**" as mentioned in her Majesty's message read by the Nigerian High Commissioner. The theme shows prominence on the important role of science and technology in all sectors in our societies and also as a way of reiterating the Commonwealth's commitment in this area and thus motivating new partnerships and networks of cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all acknowledge the achievements gained in this field, which has turned the world into a global village in terms of communication. People can now communicate around the globe and exchange valuable information expeditiously through telephones and the internet. Undoubtedly communication has positively impacted on our economies. Indeed there is no doubt that Science and Technology remain key drivers for economic transformation, employment generation, economic growth and development.

Tanzania has recognises that without the use of Science and Technology, particularly, in the agricultural sector, progress in this sector and development in general will be agonisingly slow. It is in this regard

that, our government has given this sector the utmost priority through the policy of “**KILIMO KWANZA**”. This recognition stems from the fact that it is only by equipping the poor farmers with the appropriate technology that poverty reduction can be achieved. This can be done through collaboration with Commonwealth member states. Such collaboration can take place through building upon the exceptional scientific expertise within the Commonwealth as member states have considerable world class educational, academic, research and private sector institutions as well as science based networks. Developed countries within the Commonwealth should live up to their commitments and intensify their assistance to developing members in order to achieve sustainable growth through inter alia the transfer of technology.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The onus is on us Member States. We have to look at ways of forging genuine partnerships and networks in sharing scientific knowledge, assisting less advanced members in capacity building in the areas of science and research, finding new ways of addressing global problems and formulating new technologies that will build a more equitable and sustainable future for the peoples of the Commonwealth.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf, May I wish you all an enjoyable Commonwealth Day.

I thank you for your attention.