

**REMARKS BY DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM AT THE DINNER ORGANIZED BY THE TANZANIA AND  
INDIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION IN THE HONOUR OF DR. RAJIN KANABAR  
SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010  
AT 585 MSASANI PENINSULA, DAR ES SALAAM**

**Your Excellency the First Lady Mama Salma Kikwete,**

**Your Excellency Benjamin W. Mkapa, former President and Mama  
Anna Mkapa,**

**Guest of Honour, Dr. Rajni Kanabar & Mrs. Sarla Kanabar,**

**Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,**

**Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors,**

**Chairperson of TIFA, Madam Rose Rupia,**

**Members of the Medical Profession here present,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Tanzania-India Friendship Association (TIFA), I would like to join Mrs. Rose Rupia, Chairperson of TIFA in thanking you all for responding to our invitation. My wife and I are particularly delighted to welcome you at our home. A special welcome for all those who are here for the first time. I would also like to express our particular satisfaction and appreciation to the First Lady who has honoured us by her presence. I realize how hectic her schedule is which makes her presence all the more significant. At the same time let me also extend our warm appreciation to the former President H.E. Benjamin Mkapa and Mama Anna Mkapa.

This function has been organized to honour and pay tribute to a distinguished son of Tanzania who is also a leading member of the Tanzania-India Friendship Association, Dr. Rajni Kanabar. It comes in the wake of the prestigious Award conferred on him in January this year by the President of India, Her Excellency Ms. Pratibha Patil.

The Award "**Bhartiya Parvasi Samman Award**" was given in recognition of his dedicated efforts in pioneering many health projects in Tanzania especially "Tanzania Heart Babies" through which more than 2000 have been availed subsidized heart surgeries at various hospitals in India and more particularly at Narayana Hrudayala Heart Hospital. In the process, through his impressive role, Dr. Kanabar has played an important role in the promotion of India-Tanzania cooperation in the Health Sector and thus strengthening the overall Tanzania-India relations.

By building partnerships with various Indian hospitals, Dr. Kanabar, through contributing partners and personal dedication and tireless efforts as a Convenor and Fund Raiser of the Heart babies Project ever since 1979 to this date facilitated hundreds of children suffering from Repairable Congenital and Rheumatic defects to Open Heart Surgery at highly subsidized rate. This has given a "*New Lease of Life*" to the

disadvantaged children who could have died prematurely due to lack of funds and the unavailability of a Paediatric Centre of Excellence in our country. In a nutshell, Dr. Kanabar has been in the forefront of the healthcare projects which have helped our people and especially our children.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The name of Dr. Kanabar is not new to all who have the passion and strong commitment in helping the many underprivileged children. As a Medical Practitioner, Chairman of the Regency Medical Centre, Former Chairman of the Mwanza Round Table and Lions Club of Dar es Salaam, Founder Vice Chairman of the Tanzania Heart Foundation and Founder Executive member of the Tanzania-India Friendship Association, Dr. Kanabar has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to his core values of compassion, commitment and passion to service. His journey for outstanding service to humankind began three decades ago in his hometown of Mwanza. Throughout, he has touched and served thousands of his country men and women and more especially the children with particular emphasis on those who have been or are underprivileged.



Dr. Kanabar, the person, is a man of many parts. He interacts very easily with the powerful and well endowed members of our Community including political leaders, Ministers and other high officials, Business and Community leaders, his own peers in the Medical Profession as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps. At the same time he is at ease and relates profoundly with the less privileged and the needy. He has also built a strong national and international network. Dr. Kanabar has wisely and effectively made full use of all these assets working with the Government, private sector, NGO's and his many colleagues in promoting causes and projects which touch the lives of many Tanzanians. Above all, through his contacts and affiliations he has been able to pursue with considerable success his pet project of making medical care accessible to the hundreds of children with heart defects. He has done so with great passion and unparalleled devotion.

**Your Excellency, Mama Salma Kikwete,**

**Your Excellency Benjamin Mkapa and Mama Anna Mkapa,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Award bestowed to Dr. Kanabar by the President of India, is in the final analysis, for the services rendered in Tanzania to Tanzanians. The Tanzania-India Friendship Association while highly applauding this achievement finds it only logical and appropriate that we, his fellow

compatriots, should organise this function tonight as our own recognition and tribute to this distinguished son of our country.

The presence of many of you here including our leaders and officials, members of the business community, friends and a cross section of our community as well as Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to our country is an eloquent testimony of our collective recognition of Dr. Kanabar's efforts and contribution in the service of our people. This function is not only intended to demonstrate our joy and appreciation but also to encourage him and others like him to continue to pursue the noble goal of providing dedicated service to our people and especially those who are underprivileged. It is also to demonstrate our appreciation to the Government and people of India for according such an honour to our fellow citizen.

Thank you all for your attention.