



UNITED NATIONS
TANZANIA



Special Edition Newsletter



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DODOMA



United Nations Day National Commemorations in Dodoma

On October 24th the United Nations and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania commemorated the 76th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. This year's theme for UN day was

'Building Back with Better Health Systems'

'Building Back with Better Health Systems' highlighting the need to build more sustainable health systems as the country

recovers from the public health and socio-economic impact that COVID-19 has had.

Hon. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, the Minister of Defence and National Service graced the national commemorations which were held at Nyerere Square in Dodoma where the UN flag was raised symbolizing Tanzania's commitment to continue working with the United Nations and to uphold the values embodied in the United Nations Charter. The ceremony

was attended by government officials from mainland and Zanzibar, the Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Youth representatives, UN heads of agencies and staff, member of the Tanzanian Defence Forces and Dodoma residents who were in the premises of the square.

Dr. Tax made assurances that the Government is determined to play its role in combating COVID-19 highlighting that, "Tanzania continues to



support world efforts to counter COVID-19 by ensuring all precautionary measures including those recommended by WHO are followed. It is self-evident that The UN continues to be a leader when dealing with challenges that cross borders such as COVID-19. Congratulations for this.” Dr. Tax also commended the UN’s support to vaccination efforts. “Allow me to congratulate UN Tanzania for their contribution on ensuring that Tanzania receives COVID-19 vaccines and for taking necessary measures to make the vaccine available to its staff in the country. Let me assure you that the government

values your contribution,” she said.

Speaking on behalf of the UN system, Mr. Zlatan Milisic, the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to supporting the government and people of Tanzania to achieve their national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Milisic highlighted how COVID-19 has overwhelmed health systems all over the world and pointed out that, “There is a clear need to create more resilient health systems that will ensure our communities and

people are healthy, have access to basic health services and able to better withstand health crises such as COVID-19.” He added that,

“*It is only by working together and having all hands-on deck, that we will be able to achieve the SDGs and create more sustainable health and other systems, as we build back better from the pandemic.*”



ZANZIBAR



United Nations Day Commemorations in Zanzibar

The President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar, H. E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi officiated the United Nations Day in Zanzibar where he applauded UN agencies programmes for benefitting the Island and Tanzania as a whole.

The event was also attended by The UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milisic, The Minister for Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children in Zanzibar, Hon. Nasor Ahmed Mazrui, UN Country Team Heads of Missions, Government Officials, UN officials,

Civil Society, Entrepreneurs, Youths and the media.



During his remarks at the commemoration event, President Mwinyi invited UN agencies, "To continue working closely with the eighth phase government in Zanzibar in implementing the Blue economy vision, particu-

larly in developing fisheries and seaweed farming."

The Head of State further informed how the UN has supported improving Education, Health, Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Poverty reduction, Environmental protection and educating maternal and child mortality.

In line with this year's theme;

'Building Back with Better Health Systems'

The Chairman of the Revolutionary Council said while it was fortunate that the Isles did not



have a high number of COVID-19 cases, Zanzibar was still affected by COVID-19 due to heavy dependence on Tourism as a source of revenue. The pandemic affected Tourism associated businesses, the Transport sector, Entrepreneurs, Fisheries, Livestock and job creation.

On his part, in his remarks during the commemoration, The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Zlatan Milišić thanked the Government of Tanzania for its cooperation in implementing UN programmes. He also informed that, “For many years the UN has been contributing to strengthen health systems by helping build, re-construct and equip health facilities.” Mr. Zlatan said the UN built and renovated clinics and dispensaries some of which were in remote areas of the country and the UN provided them with facilities to ensure women can safely give birth and their new-born children have access to the care they need.”

The UN Resident Coordinator also informed how the UN equipped health facilities and engaged in training and strengthening capacity of health workers by providing technical advice and support.

The UNRC Zlatan also thanked all of UN’s International development partners, without whom many activities would not be possible. He also applauded UN agencies and the recent important role in helping develop the fifth National Health Strategic Plan and through supporting the government and other stakeholders to make available essential health and social welfare services to all households.

“ I invite UN agencies to continue working closely with the eighth phase government in Zanzibar in implementing the Blue economy vision, particularly in developing fisheries and seaweed farming. ”

H. E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi

President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar



Awards to Young Innovators;

During the event, young innovators were awarded for their transformational ideas. Some of the winners awarded during the event held at the Idris Abdul Wakil Hall in Zanzibar on the 28th of October, 2021 were Mr. Hamid Abdullah Wailu who came up with a Computerised System for Measuring oil in fuel tanks. Hamid won a cash prize and a certificate. Another winner was Ms. Barke Abdaalah Ukusi who also won a cash prize and a certificate for her innovation of an application known as “Samaki Mtandaoni” which enabled fishermen to know the size of the fish, availability

of fish in the area and other information that is useful for fishermen. Other winners include Mohammed Wanimo who invented a machine that produces sea-weed powder.

Earlier, President Mwinyi visited a UN exhibition in which local entrepreneurs in Zanzibar who had benefitted from various UN programmes in the Isles showcased their work.

Press Conference:

Senior UN Officials in Zanzibar held a press conference ahead of the UN Day commemorations in Zanzibar to highlight some of the work that has been done by the United Nations. Dr. Vendelini Simon informed that UN agencies including WHO have supported the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, technically and financially to strengthen the health system during COVID-19.





Mr. Ahmed Rashid from UNICEF Zanzibar highlighted the support given to children's vaccination programmes and the efforts to ensure Zanzibar was free of Cholera.

Dr. Emma Bisimaki informed how the UN in Zanzibar supported the efforts to fight COVID-19 in the Isles which included supporting the vaccination drive, providing Prevention Equipment, capacity building for health workers and communications to combat disinformation.

Journalists were also informed that UN support accelerated the elimination of Malaria in Zanzibar

for the past decade through provision of technical, financial support, and procurement of primaquine medicine to prevent relapse and transmission of malaria infections. Any new case was tracked and dealt with effectively.

Police Gender desks were established in all 36 Police Stations in Zanzibar and there were trained police officers to respond to gender based violence. Maternal and children's health and well being were also at the core of UN's work in the Isles.

Educational Outreach:

As part of the UN Day in Zanzibar commemoration activities, UN Information Centre in partnership with the Chairperson of Angoza and an official from the Zanzibar Planning Commission and a Secondary school teacher, Mr. Ame Vuai engaged 400 students from two schools in a learning encounter on the 27th of October.

During the educational outreach to Ben Bella Girls Secondary school and Lumumba Second-



ary schools, students heard about the work of the United Nations in Tanzania. In particular, they learned and asked questions about the Sustainable Development Goals, Gender issues, climate change and their engagement with the United Nations agencies. UN publications, handouts covering the topics and the Universal Declaration of Human rights were given to students in both schools.



Tree planting:

As part of UN Day commemorations in Zanzibar, on October 27th the UN, Government and other stakeholders' officials conducted a tree planting exercise at Mtopepo riverbed area in Unguja, Zanzibar as part of reinforcing efforts by the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi towards a blue economy and having a clean environment.

The Mtopepo riverbed area is among the few places that have been highly affected by soil erosion. In Zanzibar, vegetation clearing for Agriculture has led to serious degradation in the Mtopepo riverbed area. The tree planting activity was graced by both the Mayor for Zanzibar Hon. Mahmoud Mohammed Mussa and the WHO Zanzibar Liaison Officer, Dr. Ghirmay Andemichael.

Mr. Mahmoud said at least 800 trees will be grown in the area to curb soil erosion and further urged the community to ensure they protect the trees, keep their areas clean and protect the environment. Mr. Mahmoud also gave directives to the government officials to ensure they cooperate with UN agencies in order to rescue the Mtopepo riverbed that has been highly affected by erosion and plastic pollution.

On his part, Dr. Ghirmay thanked the Zanzibar government for their usual support to UN agencies projects in Zanzibar and pledged continued cooperation on building strong health system by empowering citizens to alleviate the environmental, climate change and the flooding.

A resident of Mtopepo, Asha Mohammed said, "We will grow the trees, these trees will help us in many ways. We have been seeing how the riverbed is eating away our land, now we will work with our Sheha to prevent this problem."

A total of 150 mangrove and acacia trees were planted in the area. Other participants included the Director of Zanzibar, Salmin Amour Abdallah, UN and government officials and the residents of Mtopepo area.





OPED by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC)



Every year on October 24th Tanzania and the rest of the world commemorate the establishment of the United Nations and this year marks the UN's 76th Anniversary. 76 years ago, a small group of 51 states came out of the horrors of the Second World War and joined together to promote peace and development. Since then, that number has grown to 193 member states of the UN. October 24th has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948 – it marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter.

I believe that this year's UN Day takes place at an especially important time as we are in the midst of responding to and recovering from a pandemic that almost brought the world to a halt. The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed the lives of millions of people all over the world and has reversed decades of development progress. In countries all over the world it has resulted in more people experiencing hunger and falling back into poverty, the loss of economic gains and progress made in women's rights. In Tanzania, the Government has also acknowledged that the pandemic has slowed down the growth of the economy and a concerted effort needs to be made to reverse this trend and get the country back on track.

We have all witnessed the virus rapidly spread all over the globe showing just how interconnected the world is and international cooperation among nations was, is and continues to be necessary in responding effectively to the pandemic. We could see the impact this has had on world leaders at the UN General Assembly that took place last month with many member states committing to multilateralism and working together to find solutions to today's problems. In particular, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, made a very strong statement reaffirming Tanzania's commitment to remaining a formidable member of the

Zlatan Milisic

UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania

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United Nations and a dependable supporter of multilateralism.

While COVID-19 is a top priority, I think it is clear that climate change is just as much of an existential threat, and you could sense at the UN General Assembly that all eyes are now on COP26 as the window is rapidly closing for the world to take bold action to combat climate change and save the planet. With many nations not having made good on the promises made at the Paris Agreement, it is time for the world to take a good look at itself in the mirror and take more seriously the threat posed by climate change.

I have observed that when climate change is discussed, most of the time it is spoken of as something that is only going to have in impact in the future, but those of us that are working on the humanitarian or development agenda know that we are already experiencing its impact right now. In particular, countries such as Tanzania and other African countries are the most affected despite having the lowest levels of emissions. Extreme weather conditions such as drought and flooding especially impact those countries, such as Tanzania, where the majority of the population are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. This is an issue that matters right now and is causing deepening poverty and instability and impacts our ability to reach the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The global solidarity brought about by COVID-19 could be a catalyst for climate action that can get the world moving in the right direction.

Sadly, the pandemic caused millions of people to be hospitalized which led to health systems all over the world being overwhelmed exposing just

how fragile even the most developed health systems can be. Reports of ICUs being at capacity became the norm and was an indicator of when transmission of the virus was peaking. We repeatedly heard of hospitals running out of beds, protective personal equipment, oxygen tanks and other supplies and equipment. It is against this backdrop that, together with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, we chose 'Building Back with Better Health Systems' as the theme for this year's national UN Day commemorations.

The pandemic has halted, or reversed progress made in the health sector and shortened life expectancy. According to the 2021 SDGs report, 90% of countries are still reporting disruptions to essential health services due to COVID-19. The adverse effects that the pandemic has had on health systems has disproportionately affected women, girls, older persons and persons living with disabilities. All this and more evidence show a clear need to build better and more sustainable health systems that are prepared for future shocks, such as public health emergencies.

I have observed that when climate change is discussed, most of the time it is spoken of as something that is only going to have in impact in the future...

Since the pandemic arrived in Tanzania, I am proud that the UN has been at the forefront of supporting various pillars of the COVID-19 na-

tional response and a key part of the UN's support to the response has been working with national and international partners to ensure essential health services such as maternal, child and adolescent health, HIV/AIDS and GBV services were sustained throughout the pandemic. This has helped reduce the strain that COVID-19 has put on Tanzania's health systems.

Our support to health systems did not, however, begin in the COVID-19 era. For many years, the UN has been contributing to strengthen health systems by helping build, re-construct and equip health facilities. We have been building and renovating clinics and dispensaries, some in very remote areas of the country, and providing them with facilities to ensure women can safely give birth and their newborn children have access to the care they need.

We also help equip health facilities with ambulances, ultrasound machines and delivery beds. Another way we support health systems is by providing medical supplies to health facilities all over the country. Various UN agencies specializing in health provide a wide range of supplies such as vaccines, medicines and hygiene and sanitary items among other products.

Another important area of our support to health systems is conducting training and strengthening the capacity of health workers as well as providing technical advice and support. Recently, UN agencies played an important role in helping develop the fifth National Health Strategic Plan and are currently supporting the government and other stakeholders to make available essential health and social welfare services to all households.

It is important that we acknowledge the findings of the recent Mid Term Review of the previous Health Sector Strategic Plan which showed a significant reduction of deaths among children under five years, a 23% decline in the incidence of malaria and a commendable progress towards ending AIDS by 2030. This has been possible because of Government commitment, good planning at grassroots level and our strong partnerships. We need to build on this, and other progress made over the years.

I believe access to health care is not only a basic human right, but it is also essential for the prosperity of communities and the nation at large. As the UN in Tanzania, next year we will be launching Tanzania's UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which is a new generation of UN cooperation frameworks. We have already started designing this in consultation with the Government, development partners, civil society and other partners. Our collective analysis shows that there are particular areas where the UN can use its comparative advantage to really accelerate progress on

the SDGs.

Some of these areas are directly related to health. Specifically, reducing maternal mortality rates; ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB and Malaria; and reducing malnutrition. An independent analysis has shown that making progress in these areas can contribute greatly to accelerating progress on the SDGs in Tanzania. Health systems are all linked to these areas because you need the supply streams, the infrastructure, the capacity building and other systems in place in order to achieve them. So apart from making the country better prepared for future health crises, better health systems will also accelerate achievement of national development priorities and the SDGs. This should be an important focus area as we recover and build back better from the pandemic.

I thank all of our development partners for their sustained support and partnership which has enabled the UN to support Tanzania's health systems and provide support to the country in a variety of other areas. It is my hope that we will be able to continue working together in support of our common development goals.

I also thank the Government for their support and cooperation which allows us to implement our development and humanitarian activities in Tanzania. Tanzania, like the rest of the world, has less than ten years left to achieve the SDGs and is also fast approaching the Tanzania Development Vision 2025. So, we really need to all work together towards these common goals and ensure that no one is left behind – Tanzania has the UN's full support.





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