



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania

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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR MODEST J. MERO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 86: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2018

**307 East 53rd Street, 5TH Floor, New York NY 10022
Tel. No. 212-697-3612 | Fax. No. 212-697-3618**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you and all other members of the Bureau on your election

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Republic of the Gambia on behalf of the African Group. We also welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the subject before us.

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania has always been a firm believer and supporter of the rule of law at the national and international levels. At the national level, the rule of law ensures that everyone is treated equally under the law, where people trust the courts to hear their cases impartially and render judgments in accordance with the law and the facts. It is one of the fundamental tenets on which our country was founded. At the international level, it is a critical basis for international relations among States, and between States and other international legal entities.

Mr. Chairman,

In upholding the rule of law, Tanzania has continued to take measures to make all organs responsible for dispensation of justice easily accessible by all people. These include but are not limited to: administrative, policy and legal measures.

To date there is notable progress in the judiciary reforms; however, it is common knowledge that administrative measures alone cannot yield the expected results hence the efforts have been complemented by the review of laws, rules and procedures hindering acceleration of case disposals; amendment of rules and regulation; increase court infrastructures with modern technology to offer multiple justice services from different stakeholders (integrated justice centers). The review and indexing laws in an electronic searchable format is another milestone to allow easy accessibility aiming at improving the administration of justice in Tanzania.

The Government continues to utilize mobile courts in areas where there are no physical courts and judicial officers to offer justice services. This measure brings judicial services closer to people and subsequently cuts down costs related to access to justice by the poor, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable.

Furthermore, the Zero Case Backlog Policy which was introduced in 2016 assigns Judges and Magistrates a minimum number of cases to be finalized within a year; these reforms have reduced the backlog, for instance in the High court the number of backlog has dropped from 27% in 2016 to 6% in 2018.

Mr. Chairman ,

Similar initiatives include restructuring the Office of the Attorney General via Order published in GN No. 48 of 2018. The restructuring has been made with a view of enhancing and strengthening capacity to efficiently discharge duties under the office of the Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor General and Law Officers in Ministries, independent Government departments, agencies and Local Government Authorities.

Prior to this Order, all civil and criminal litigations were under direct control of the Attorney General. A new office of the Solicitor General has been established as a result of the restructuring. This office is charged with supervision of civil litigation and arbitration proceedings. Among others, this restructuring will positively impact these offices in terms of keeping up and maintaining conducive working environment for dispensation of justice.

Mr. Chairman,

In August 2018, the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania passed the Law titled "The Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment Act No. 2 Act, 2018)" which was published in the Government Gazette on 25th September, 2018.

The Act has amended a number of laws in order to strengthen the rule of law. Some of the Laws amended include: - (i) Mutual Legal Assistance Act, Cap 254, (ii) National Prosecution Service Act, Cap 430, (iii) Office of the Attorney General (Discharge of Duties) Act, Cap 268, (iv) Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act, Cap 329, (v) Prevention of Terrorism Act, Cap 19, (vi) Proceeds of Crime Act, Cap 256, (vi) Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 20; to mention a few.

Tanzania has ensured that the amendment of the above laws are in compliance with human rights norms, standards and with principles of good governance as well as regional and international standards.

Mr Chairman,

Strengthening the rule of law in order to achieve justice cannot be realized unless those associated with legal institutions are able to perform their duties under the law, with independence and neutrality, free from pressure, harassment, corruption, or persecution. It is in light of the foregoing, that Tanzania declared the war against corruption and all sorts of malfeasances the number one enemy by implementing its Zero Tolerance Policy to corruption without fear or favor.

Cognizant of the fact that corruption is a complex social vice, the fight against corruption in Tanzania enjoys the positive inter-agency collaboration amongst the law enforcement agencies as well as the Ministries, Departments and Agencies. No organ is left behind in this war.

The general public is also aware of the problem and comprehends what the government wants and what is expected from them. Tanzanian citizens are positively supporting the government's moves in the fight against the scourge.

As expected, these measures have generated determined resistance from vested economic and criminal elements. This has necessitated the Government to take appropriate countermeasures which have sometimes been misunderstood as being too restrictive. Despite these challenges, Tanzania will continue to respect and uphold the rule of law, good governance, democracy and human rights as enshrined in our Constitution.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Tanzania firmly believes that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, protection of all human rights, and peaceful coexistence and cooperation among states.

I THANK YOU.