



**Congratulatory speech for the
United Republic of Tanzania's
55th Anniversary of the Union Day | April 30th, 2019**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Job Masima; Distinguished
Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honored Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I feel privileged and honored to represent the people of Israel and the Government of Israel in congratulating the United Republic of Tanzania, the people of Tanzania and its Government, on the 55th Anniversary of the Union Day.

Dear Friends,

In recent years, we have witnessed unprecedented momentum in the bilateral ties between Israel and Tanzania -- in all areas. This is evident in the strong cooperation between our two countries, the mutual high-level visits on a governmental level, as well as the robust people-to-people relations.

There are many facets to the friendship between Israel and Tanzania. Israel's Agency for International Cooperation, MASHAV, has been focusing, together with the Tanzanian Government, on developing key sectors in Tanzania in areas such as agriculture, food security, and health. An example for the tremendous potential of the cooperation in agriculture is the recent construction of a modern Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the



Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma. The unit, which will serve as a symbol for the friendship between our two nations, is completely designed, financed and constructed by MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, and uses the most up to date Israeli medical technology. We are confident that this world-class center will also serve its goal in treating thousands of Tanzanians each year.

The opening of the Tanzanian Embassy in Israel last year is another example of the growing partnership between Israel and Tanzania. This embassy, headed by our good friend Ambassador Masima, has already contributed much to the relationship between our two countries and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the years to come.

Recognizing that terrorism is a phenomenon that nations must confront together, security cooperation is another field that has seen unprecedented momentum in recent months. Just a few months ago, a team of the IDF's finest trainers travelled to Tanzania to provide the Tanzanian Military with first class training in counterterrorism tactics.

Trade relations between our two countries are also growing, as an increasing number of Israeli companies are looking to strengthen and develop business ties with Tanzania. And the cooperation is not only growing in business: in recent years cooperation in tourism has also been on the rise: From the wonders of Kilimanjaro and Serengeti National Park, to the beautiful coastlines of Zanzibar, Israeli tourists are flocking south to enjoy the wonders that Tanzania has to offer. In this regard, an



interesting fact that some of you may not be aware of – almost 10% of all tourism to Zanzibar comes from Israel!

The Israeli Government is fully committed to continue working hand-in-hand with its counterparts in Tanzania to ensure that cooperation, such as this, continues in the decades ahead.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, in recent years, the government of Israel has placed a great deal of emphasis on strengthening our relationship with the nations of Africa. Prime Minister Netanyahu himself has led the way in visiting the continent three times in the last three years and implementing the phrase: "Israel is back in Africa, and Africa is back in Israel".

In this regard, there is no doubt that Tanzania is one of Israel's key strategic partners, not just in Africa, but also well beyond.

I take this opportunity to reiterate Israel's desire and commitment to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation that exists between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our people.

Once again, on behalf of the Government and the People of Israel, I wish to congratulate the United Republic of Tanzania on its national day. May Tanzania continue to know great prosperity and may the bonds between our nations continue to blossom in the years ahead.