

An enduring partnership

By **H.E DR. ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO**

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO is a lawyer by training, holding a PhD from the University of Konstanz, Germany. From 2000 to 2006 she served as Tanzania's Minister of Community Development, Gender and Children's Affairs, later becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She subsequently was appointed to the post of United National Deputy Secretary-General by Ban-Ki Moon. She took up the position of High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in May 2016.

It has been an honour and a privilege of a lifetime to serve my country as the thirteenth envoy to the Court of St. James's. During this time, we have witnessed significant milestones in the UK. In June 2016 Britain voted to exit from the EU. This in itself led to sweeping changes in the United Kingdom and amongst the members of the Union, as rules of engagement and trade had to change in turn.

Following the resignation of David Cameron, a new Prime Minister, Theresa May, took office. Since then, three other PMs took the leadership of this country. Despite these changes the relationship between the United Republic of Tanzania and the UK has persevered and thrived. The long-founded bond between our two countries has continued on a steady path. The United Kingdom remains one of Tanzania's largest and strongest foreign direct investors and a staunch supporter of many socio-economic development projects in different fields, and in education with an emphasis on the provision of quality education for girls in Tanzania.

Today we are proud to have H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan at the helm of our country. She serves as the 6th and first executive female President in our country and region. Since taking office she has embarked on wide-ranging reforms that have put our country on a trajectory of steady recovery from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic to creating a conducive environment for business, investment and trade.

This has included the continuation of the 1435 mm Standard Gauge Railway line that will not only replace the older meter gauge railway, but will usher the Tanzania Railway system into the 21st Century by speeding up inland travel, improving access to export centres for agrarian and industrial raw material and effectively lowering cost of transportation and production at large.

Under her stewardship, Tanzania has seen the completion of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower dam along Stigler's gorge that is due to produce 5,920GWh annually. This massive power injection into the national grid is envisioned to vitalise power availability and change the state of installed capacity for Tanzania. This will significantly lower the cost of electricity in the long run and enhance reliable power source capacity for large scale industrialisation. Growth in electricity producing capacity is also expected to positively impact rural development growth by ensuring every Tanzanian has access to power in the near future. To date, only 37.7 per cent of Tanzanians have access to electricity. It will also provide a much-needed boost to the nascent industrial sector in the country and increase investment appeal.

Tanzania continues to be committed to bettering its business and investment environment whilst strengthening the links with its traditional partners as it seeks to foster new relationships with new partners. In this, deliberate efforts to address bureaucratic red tape, corruption and mendacity remain a priority. In this and many other efforts the United Kingdom remains a reliable partner.

As we work towards growth, we are confident that our partnership with the United Kingdom will continue to grow in leaps and bounds. We are committed to forging new partnerships in new fields including addressing climate change, developing the blue economy and expanding trade between our two countries. The High Commission remains ready to work with our counterparts in the United Kingdom to build upon our thriving relations to unprecedented levels for our mutual benefit.



Kitulo National Park: The 'Serengeti of Flowers,' is the first National Park in tropical Africa to be established primarily for its floristic importance