

UK-Tanzania business forum

By LORD WALNEY

PRIME MINISTER'S TRADE ENVOY TO TANZANIA



LORD WALNEY was elected to the House of Commons as Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness in the 2010 general election and served as Shadow Minister of Transport and Shadow Minister for Young People. He was nominated for a life peerage in the 2019 Dissolution Honours and created Baron Walney.

The UK Prime Minister appointed me as Trade Envoy to Tanzania in 2021, an appointment I was honoured and delighted to receive. My role as Trade Envoy is to encourage like minded partners from the UK and Tanzania to explore potential business opportunities and develop prosperous partnerships.

Following my appointment, I was excited to be part of the first Tanzania – UK Business Forum hosted in Dar es Salaam in 2021. With over 500 participants in person, 13 travelling in from the UK, and even more joining us online, the forum provided a platform for businesses in both countries to connect and engage in rich discussion. Dedicated government-to-government and business-to-business sessions worked through opportunities and challenges across a range of sectors specifically infrastructure, mining, agriculture and blue economy.

The forum birthed a handful of investment opportunities and partnerships between the UK and Tanzania. A case in point is Propav infrastructure that recently signed a €230m contract with the Government of Zanzibar for construction of three roads on the island. The forum helped launch UK Export Finance

(UKEF) into fresh engagements with government and businesses. Since the forum, there has been an increase of UK suppliers and the Tanzanian Government interest in UKEF within the infrastructure, blue economy, and the agriculture sector.

The UK's confidence in working with Tanzania on investment and business issues has been boosted by Her Excellency Mama Samia and her Government's approach and encouragement of foreign direct investment. I have visited Tanzania now several times over the last year including with a trade delegation, which has demonstrated the commitment of the UK to realise opportunities for trade and investment cooperation.

I am pleased that the British High Commission together with the Government of Tanzania co-hosted this year's UK-Tanzania business forum that took place on 29 November, our ambition was to capitalise on the success from last year and drive forward real progress in our trade and investment relationship. I joined the forum in person with a group of visiting businesses allowing for fruitful face-to-face discussions with individuals and organisations based in Tanzania.

I look forward to continued cooperation and I am excited for the opportunities ahead. P



The first Tanzania-UK Business Forum hosted by the British High Commission took place in the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, Dar es Salaam