

**PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION**

**(Specialized Agency of the AU)**

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**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**



**UNION PANAFRICAINE DES POSTES**

**(Institution spécialisée de l'UA)**

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**SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL**

**CELEBRATION OF 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PANAFRICAN  
POSTAL UNION (PAPU)  
ARUSHA, 17<sup>th</sup> TO 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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***SPEECH BY MR. YOUNOUSS DJIBRINE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PAN  
AFRICAN POSTAL UNION (PAPU) DURING THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION  
STONE OF THE PAPU HOUSE PROJECT ON 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020***

- **The Minister of Works, Transport and Communications of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Eng. Isaack Aloyce Kamwelwe (MP), Guest of Honour and Personal Representative of His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania;**
- **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**
- **All protocol observed;**

On this especially historic day in the life of our continental organization, it is my singular honour and pleasure, once more, to welcome you all and thank you for finding the time in your busy schedules to respond favourably to our invitation.

**Honourable Minister and personal representative of His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania;**

Permit me to begin by expressing my sincere and most respectful appreciation to you for doing us the great honour of presiding over celebrations to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pan African Postal Union.

More especially, I would like to welcome you most warmly to the main highlight of our celebrations, namely the foundation stone laying ceremony for the PAPU Headquarters building, the long-awaited “PAPU House”, which will be the culmination of efforts made over the last four decades!

As you are aware, the main objectives of the PAPU House project are:

- 1) To provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest international organization in Arusha with a permanent headquarters that is befitting of its status as a continental intergovernmental organization which proudly embodies the very essence and spirit of Pan-Africanism. Indeed, with its sheer size, futuristic design and strategic location at the foot of the majestic Mount Meru, the PAPU House will be a towering jewel on the inviting landscape of Arusha, the “Geneva of Africa”.

- 2) To generate additional income for the Union and reduce its reliance solely on increasingly unpredictable mandatory financial contributions from our Member States and Associate Members;

The 17-storey multipurpose building will be erected on PAPU-owned land measuring 5,797 square meters and situated right here on this very plot number 113/2, Block "Z", in Sekei ward of Arusha.

To actualize this project, PAPU is partnering with the Government of Tanzania – our host country – represented by Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) with whom we have entered into a Joint Venture.

I wish to emphasize here that despite the myriad teething problems and unforeseeable twists and turns inherent in any endeavour of such scale, our project has just regained tremendous momentum thanks to your reassuring personal involvement. Honourable Minister, your bold and decisive leadership actually speaks to the outstanding legacy of the eminent statesman and champion of “**Hapa kazi tu!**”, His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, whose transformative agenda from the moment he took office during his first and current term, has earned him widespread admiration across the continent and earned him the highly evocative nickname “The Bulldozer”.

The building will serve as offices for PAPU and TCRA, and will also be used for commercial offices, conference center, training center, shopping mall, banking hall, etc... It will therefore contribute to raising additional income for the Union.

Under the partnership PAPU has 60% ownership while TCRA has 40% ownership. In line with this ownership structure, PAPU and TCRA are expected to contribute equity in cash and in kind equivalent to 50% of the total cost, in proportion their respective shareholdings in the project, while the remaining 50% will be covered by a bank loan contracted by the Joint Venture and guaranteed by TCRA.

**Honourable Minister,**

Once again, kindly convey our humble and heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic for allowing this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be celebrated under his esteemed patronage and for assigning you as his personal representative to preside over the foundation stone laying ceremony for this milestone project.

Our Union is very honoured indeed that the President himself has so deeply appreciated the importance and vital role of this undertaking and the associated future benefits to both PAPU and the Tanzanian economy as a whole.

Under the enlightened leadership of His Excellency the President, I would like to make it known that the Government of Tanzania has given great thought and attention to this venture.

We in the African Postal Fraternity feel greatly encouraged and are immensely indebted to the Government and the people of this great nation for the magnificent support and leadership given to PAPU since its establishment 40 years ago.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I wish to seize this moment to specially thank the Honourable Minister of Works, Transport and Communications of Tanzania, Eng. Isaack Aloyce Kamwelwe (MP) for the milestones accomplished this far thanks to his unequalled leadership. Indeed, Honourable Minister, your forceful intervention to iron out the hurdles we had encountered actually brought new life to this project. We will therefore forever be profoundly indebted to you for your outstanding personal commitment at a very decisive moment in this endeavour.

We are delighted to note that key aspects in the preliminary phases are underway, and would like you to kindly extend our wholehearted gratitude to the management and staff of your Ministry.

## **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Throughout the last seven years, all the PAPU Plenipotentiaries have been involved in the project by providing policy guidelines. Thank you very much for having worked closely together with us with your unfailing energy, determination and conviction to finally make this event possible today.

I am proud of all the guidance provided over the period during which you were always asking for the progress of the project and emphasizing on the need to follow sound and transparent processes. I am happy that we have come so far today.

I will continue, by saying a big thank you to the Regional Commissioner for Arusha Region Mheshimiwa Mrisho Gambo who has always extended an open door policy to us throughout the pre-construction phase of the project. We thank you most sincerely for your unflinching support and are hopeful that you will continue working as such in the next phases of the project.

At this juncture, I would like to turn to the Director General of TCRA – our partner – and his dynamic team. Thank you for cordially and tirelessly working with us since the Joint Venture was established some seven years ago. Your support in the coordination of all details, especially in procurement, is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank **BJ Amuli Associates**, the consultants-architects who prepared the designs of the building. Considering that deciding on the most suitable design that will serve our interests was a daunting task, I would like to thank the architect for always finding a way to improve on the different aspects of the building in line with our requirements.

## **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Today's ceremony marks the transition from planning to reality. As of today, with the start of the actual construction works, the main responsibility for the construction site has passed into the hands of our construction company, **Beijing Construction Engineering Group**, under the able supervision of the consultant.

This is no time for complacency. We still have many challenges to face, and we have to make sure that the construction work proceeds smoothly.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

We are all looking forward to seeing the rise of the 17-storey tower that will grace the skyline of Arusha. I have full trust in all of you who are involved in the project working for our new headquarters, especially in your expertise and knowledge. I have advised our team, the Joint Venture Committee, the consultant and the Clerk of Works, to monitor the works carefully and to keep a close eye on the quality, the scheduling and the costs of the project in order to ensure that we remain on budget at all times. This is essential!

I am very confident that we will continue with the very good cooperation among all parties that have been involved this project so far. Our common goal is to ensure that the new building complex becomes a reality as planned.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As I conclude my remarks, I speak for the African Postal Fraternity in reiterating our humble and heartfelt appreciation to His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for his inspiring leadership, his commitment to inclusive and sustainable people-centered development, driven by a solid determination to tackle myriad problems with boldness, creativity and an unwavering resolve to find viable, practical and long-lasting solutions.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Asante sana!