



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

**SPEECH BY H.E. DR. PHILIP ISDOR MPANGO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE URT
DURING THE OPENING OF THE 11TH EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2025 (EAPCE'25)**

**JNICC, DAR ES SALAAM
5TH MARCH 2025**

- ***Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko (MP), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, URT;***
- ***Hon. Ministers;***
- ***Hon. Members of the Parliament;***
- ***H.E. Amb. Veronica Nduva, EAC Secretary General;***
- ***Hon. Albert Chalamila, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner and other Regional Commissioners present;***
- ***Eng. Felchesmi Mramba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and all Permanent Secretaries present;***
- ***Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps;***
- ***Heads of Institutions, Executive Directors & CEOs of Various Institutions, Authorities, Companies and Associations;***
- ***Government Officials;***
- ***Representatives of Energy Companies;***
- ***Business Leaders;***
- ***Sponsors and Organizers;***
- ***Members of the Media Fraternity;***
- ***Distinguished Guests;***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen;***

It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Tanzania. **Karibuni sana!** It is also an honor to address this gathering, at such a critical juncture in the evolution of East Africa's energy landscape, on behalf of H.E. SSH, President of the URT. As we convene today to explore the theme of "*Unlocking Investment in Future Energy: The Role of Petroleum Resources in the Energy Mix for Sustainable Development in East Africa*", we stand at a crossroad facing both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges.

The East Africa region stands at the dawn of a new era, where sustainable energy development, will define the future of our environment, economies, and societies. As such, our path forward must clearly balance growth with sustainability, innovation with responsibility, and the needs of today with the aspirations of tomorrow. The theme of the EAPCE'25 reflects the reality we are facing today. On one hand, we must address climate change concerns that demand changes in our daily lives, including the energy sources we rely on. On the other hand, we have social and economic needs of our people that require energy and financial resources to address. One potential solution of this challenge is the development of our region's available resources, including petroleum. Nevertheless, it is clear that we have the collective obligation to strike a balance between sustaining the needs of our people today and ensuring that we do not compromise the ability of the future generation to meet their needs.

Distinguished Participants;

You will all agree that energy is a key driver of development, as energy consumption is used as a yardstick to measure a society's level of development. However, as it stands now, sub-Saharan Africa has a very low energy consumption compared to other regions like America, Asia and Europe. It is therefore crucial to explore our energy potential and find the best ways to harness and use our resources to empower our people to prosper.

Distinguished Participants;

Some of the regional energy challenges include, limited access to modern energy, insufficient financial resources and reliance on biomass, which hold back our economic development. It is for this reason that the seventh goal of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, calls for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. To achieve this goal, our governments have embarked on various projects such as rural electrification and promotion of clean cooking initiatives to ensure energy accessibility. Governments have also taken the lead in energy investments and provided subsidies for distribution and connections. In all these initiatives, we have also had to take into account energy security and affordability, informed by the economic status of our people.

Distinguished Participants;

As we are all aware, East Africa is endowed with significant energy resources, including an active petroleum system. Natural gas has been discovered in Tanzania, oil in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan, methane in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and geothermal resources in Kenya and Tanzania, just to mention a few. At the same time, our regional energy demand keeps growing driven by many initiatives we are taking to develop our economies through industrialization and rural electrification. To overcome this growing energy demand and benefit our people, there is a need to effectively utilize all our energy resources (including petroleum) in order to fill or close the energy deficit for accelerated development. Additionally, such energy resources will serve as a major source of revenue for our governments, which can then be reinvested in infrastructures and social services, and support the broader development agenda.

Distinguished Participants;

We are also cognizant of the fact that the world is facing climate change that has damaged the environment through unpredictable rains seasons, flooding, earthquakes, rising temperatures and so forth. Tanzania, like many other nations, has committed to a global pact aimed at reducing fossil fuel use to combat climate change, with the goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Indeed, African countries are striving to transition to renewable energy, with natural gas and other alternative sources serving as bridges towards the goal of net-zero carbon emission. However, it is upon us to strike a balance between growth and sustainability by solving today's problems while preparing solutions for tomorrow's problems. We note that, petroleum resources continue to play a crucial role in today's energy mix and by using these resources

responsibly, I am convinced that we can drive development while leveraging the revenue generated to transition towards a greener future.

Distinguished Participants;

Technological innovation has fortunately led to advancement in oil and gas technologies, including cleaner extraction methods and potential for carbon capture and storage. This development gives a window of opportunity to developing countries to maximize extraction of their petroleum resources sustainably. To ensure sustainability, revenue derived from these investments should be used to fund development projects, create jobs, and re-investing in environmental restoration initiatives. I think for the benefit of future generations and in the spirit of responsibility, our policies and laws should include the creation of a savings fund by dedicating some percentage of revenue from petroleum resources for future use.

Distinguished Participants;

We cannot avoid transitioning to cleaner sources of energy, as it is a crucial strategy for decarbonization. However, investments in renewable energy are both capital-intensive and costly, and require specialized skills to operate and manage. It is estimated that Africa needs between 1 and 2 trillion USD to meet the clean energy transition targets by 2030. In response, our countries are implementing policies and programs to encourage investment in renewable energy, as indicated by the current status in Tanzania where renewable sources take the lead in the energy mix.

Given that petroleum resources are locally available, it makes sense for African countries to develop them now as a foundation towards energy transition. In order to accelerate this process and attain sustainable development goals, we suggest that a public-private partnership model should be pursued, underpinned by a favorable investment environment.

Distinguished Participants;

As the theme of the conference suggests, we are here to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences with the aim of unlocking investment opportunities in future energy and understanding the strategic role of petroleum resources in the energy mix for sustainable development. I hope your discussion will shape the future where renewable and future energy consumption will increase and surpass the consumption of petroleum resources. It is also important to strengthen regional collaboration to ensure the future we are envisioning is realized through a just energy transition.

Distinguished Participants;

As I conclude, I wish you all the best in discussing the future of energy and it is my hope that your deliberation will help to inform our policies towards future energy sustainability. The energy landscape is clearly evolving, and to benefit from what lies ahead, we must strengthen our collaboration. I also urge investors and development partners to join us in this transition. Additionally, we must continue to advocate for a

just energy transition, from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources while ensuring that economic and social impacts of this change/transition are fairly distributed. It means, no one should be left behind and that everyone benefits from the transition.

Let us join hands in unlocking the immense potential of East Africa's energy sector, paving the way for sustainable growth and lasting prosperity in our region.

With these remarks, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the URT, it's my singular honor to declare that the **11th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2025** is officially opened and the **Tanzania 5th Licensing Round** formally launched.

ASANTENI SANA!