



Norwegian Embassy

Speech at the Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony between Legal and Human Rights Centre and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania

Your Excellence Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen - the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania,
Delegates from the Norwegian Embassy,
Esteemed LHRC staff,
Members of the press and other distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings,

I am pleased to welcome you all to this very special event that will witness the reaffirming of cooperation commitment between Legal and Human Rights Centre on behalf of Tanzanians who are the primary beneficiaries of our work and Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania on behalf of the Kingdom of Norway. The agreement seeks to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania.

LHRC is a non-governmental organisation established in 1995 to advocate for protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law and good governance. LHRC works towards attainment of a Just and Equitable Society where - the three arms of state [parliament, judiciary and the executive], as well as non-state actors, practice accountability, transparency and there is rule of law; and where there is public awareness, respect and engagement for human rights and good governance; and where justice and respect for human dignity are a reality.

As we (LHRC) strive to attain a just and equitable society, we have launched our new six years (2019-2024) strategic plan which among other things aims at increasing understanding and respect for Human Rights among rights holders and duty bearers; advocacy for improvement of rule of law, civic space, democracy, constitutional and legal reforms; promotion of socio-economic and environmental compliance, accountability and justice as well as improvement of the legal and policy frameworks governing specific rights of women, children and People with Disabilities (PWDs).

Being a non-profit organisation, implementation of our programs entirely depend on development partners and the Norwegian Embassy has been constantly supporting us for more than 10 years now. The Government of Norway launched its support to

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LHRC in 2003 funding LHRC through NORAD and later the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The cooperation between LHRC and Royal Norwegian Embassy has positively contributed to increased respect for human rights and the rule of law among both rights holders and duty bearers in Tanzania.

Norway is a great partner to Tanzania and recognises Tanzania as one of her 10 partner countries for long term development. Norway supports Tanzania's goal to become a middle-income country with priorities in the private sector development, renewable energy, petroleum management, increased revenue mobilisation through improved fiscal and financial management, and environment and climate change.

As we enter into this grant agreement, we would like to sincerely thank the Kingdom of Norway for generous and constant support to LHRC and people of the United Republic of Tanzania. We would also like to congratulate the delegation of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania headed by your excellence Elisabeth Jacobsen for the great work they are doing in Tanzania. This core support to our strategic plan has come in a time of need; given the growing concerns over shrinking civic space; escalating gender-based violence against sections of the population- women, children and PWDs; and the growing concern for economic and environmental justice as the country progresses towards industrialisation driven by growth in the extractives and manufacturing.

We are full cognizant of positive developments under the leadership of the President H.E Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and we are working to address existing challenges towards improvement of human rights and rule of law. It is through collective efforts that our move to attaining a society that respects human rights and rule of law will be a reality. We appeal to all Tanzanians to join us in a bid to guarantee human rights in the country.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Issued by,
Anna Henga (Advocate)
Executive Director
Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)

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