

Statement by the Honorable Deputy Minister of Transport of Zanzibar, Mr. Machano Said, MP

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Your Excellency, Honorable Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lesotho, Your Excellencies Ministers responsible for Transport of the Sub Saharan region, distinguished guests, friends, colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's an honor to be invited to this important meeting which addresses an important agenda of bringing about development and hence reducing poverty in Sub Saharan Africa region. Indeed Africa is suffering from the whims of poverty than any other continent in the world. One of the issues that hinder poverty reduction in this region is transport. This is due to high costs of its services which are a result of poor transport infrastructure and low level of accessibility.

SSATP is geared towards reducing poverty in the region by bringing together knowledge and experiences on how to rectify the situation. It is in cognizance of these endeavors of SSATP that Tanzania has been an active member of SSATP since its formation. It participates in its decision making and ensures that it implements what has been decided.

Your Excellencies Ministers responsible for Transport, the Minister for Infrastructure Development of Tanzania, Honorable Edward Chenge (MP), has been very eager to attend this important meeting. He has just been to the Ministry for two weeks and there is a Parliamentary session going on. He sincerely wishes you well in this Conference focused at deliberations which is on transport related matters pertinent to the well being of our land Africa. He is eagerly waiting for the outcome of this meeting and will ensure the implementation of whatever decision that will be made.

Your Excellencies Ministers, as said earlier on, Tanzania is an active member of the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP). It has actively participated in SSATP activities including actively participating in making decisions in SSATP meetings and implementing them throughout its membership period. We have followed up on all issues which have been decided upon by SSATP. These include but not limited to the following:

- (i) Having in place a Road Funds in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar,
- (ii) Having in place Road Agency (TANROADS),
- (iii) We have completed the PRTSR process,
- (iv) Have in place a National Transport Policy and associated Implementation Strategies,
- (v) We are finalizing a transport sector wide program called Transport Sector Investment Program (TSIP),
- (vi) We have completed the first two cycles of data collection under the PMI thematic group,

(vii) Have in place a Draft National Road Safety Policy and working on Implementation Strategy.

(viii) Have in place mechanisms for consultation with stakeholders.

We wish to be continued active and committed members of SSATP.

I wish you all good deliberations that will lead to a better transport systems n Sub Saharan Africa region leading to poverty reduction and hence bringing about development.

Thank you for listening.