

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



PRESS RELEASE.....

The government has concluded a day-long consultation with the private sector at Kambarage Auditorium of the Treasury Square in Dodoma. The consultative meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Charles Mwijage, Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment and Hon. Dr. Phillip Mpango, Minister for Finance and Planning. Five Deputy Ministers and representatives of each Parliamentary Standing Committees were also in attendance, as well as Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and a host of senior government officials, including the Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, Dr. Reginald Mengi and Mr. Salum Shamte respectively, the Chairman of the CEO Roundtable, Mr. Ali Mufuruki, leaders of chambers of commerce, business organizations and over two hundred businessmen and businesswomen attended the consultative meeting.

The objective of the consultative meeting was to afford the government an opportunity to listen to the private sector and together explore ways of overcoming challenges that the private sector faces in order to accelerate economic growth particularly through industrialization. The meeting also aimed at bolstering the trust between the government and the private sector, particularly as the government crackdown against tax evasion and corruption and some other reform measures that have been taken recently might have shaken the confidence of the private sector.

The consultative meeting was very productive and a number of suggestions were made on the ways of improving the relationship between the government and the private sector. The private sector made a crosscutting presentation outlining a number of areas that the private sector is very happy with because of the measures that the government is taking. These include the crackdown against corruptions, the major push to improve efficiency of the public sector and the trimming down of unnecessary public expenditure in favor of development expenditure. The presentation also outlined nine areas of concern that the private sector hoped the government would address. These include bolstering trust between the two sides, improving policy predictability and respect for contractual obligations, access to finance and ensuring adequate, reliable and affordable energy for industrialization.

The private sector also made presentations on specific sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, finance and insurance and so on. In each presentation challenges that the private sector is facing were outlined and explained and suggestions on measures that can address the challenges were made. Some written brief by individual businessmen and businesswomen were also submitted for consideration.

Over all the private sector expressed satisfaction on the way the consultative meeting was conducted. The government on its side promised to work on all suggestions that were made during the meeting and to the extent possible, put them into implementation. Both sides agreed to regularize this kind of consultative meetings.



*Hon. Dr. Phillip Mpango, MP,
Minister for Finance and Planning*



*Hon. Charles Mwijage, MP
Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment*

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