

**CLOSING SPEECH OF HON. AMB. DKT. PINDI H. CHANA (MP)
MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS DURING
THE CLOSING OF THE 77TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AT THE
ARUSHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE ON
THE 9TH OF NOVEMBER, 2023**

Hon. Prof. Remy Lungu Ngoy, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights;

Hon. Harusi Said Suleiman (MHR), Minister of States, Office of the First Vice President;

Hon. Riziki Pembe Juma (MHR), Minister of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children;

Hon. John Mongella, Arusha Regional Commissioner;

Hon. Commissioners of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Right;

Hon. Ministers and Ambassadors from AU;

Hon. Ambassadors from different countries and Members of Diplomatic Core and Heads of International Organizations;

Hon. Dr. Joseph Kizito Mhagama (Mb), Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Administration, Constitution and Legal Affairs.

Hon. Members of Parliament present;

Hon. Retired Judge Mathew Mwaimu; Chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of the United Republic of Tanzania;

Permanent Secretaries;

Heads of Government Institutions;

Representative from NGOs and CSOs;

Representative from Development Partners;

Hon. Councilors;

Hon Religious Leaders;

Hon. Traditional Leaders;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I salute you in the name of the United Republic of Tanzania.

First and Foremost, I wish to start by thanking almighty God full of blessings who has given us life and the ability to convene here today on this very special occasion.

I take this opportunity to Singularly applaud **Hon. Prof Remy Ngoy Lumbu**, Chairman of the African Commission for Human and Peoples Right for his impeccable cooperation skills used to steer the 77th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He has indeed enabled us to reach this critical point of closure with great achievement along the course of the session and sustainable outcomes. The success of this session is due to your great leadership. We congratulate you.

I also congratulate all the Commissioners who also cooperated with the various stakeholders at the session and worked tirelessly to convey various messages important to the promotion and protection of human rights. Congratulations Hon. Commissioners.

Dear Participants,

I take this opportunity to also convey salutation from the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania who have been closely following the 77th Session since it commenced on the 20th of October, 2023. Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland have jointly collaborated in the national preparations of this very important meeting as well as participated in different agenda items during the session.

I believe that all actors involved in the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights have benefited greatly from the session by learning and exchanging best practices on how to promote and protect human and people's rights on this vast, beautiful and dynamic continent of ours, glorious Africa. I urge all African Countries to continue this practice of exchange, dialogue and communication. This is important as the realization of human rights directly impacts our economies and development of our countries.

Dear Participants,

I also wish to recognize all the stakeholders who tirelessly dedicated their efforts to make this 77 Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights a reality. I must say that the preparation and the operationalization of this session was not an

easy task. I am informed that about 1,860 participants were able either to present, discuss or aired their opinion during this session. I am also told that though there were different opinions and thinking yet there was mutual understanding, peace and tranquility among the participants from different member states, governments, non-state actors and individual citizens throughout the whole Session, a situation that made the Session fruitful one. I greatly congratulate you for achieving the objective of this Session.

Dear Participants,

I would like to thank the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Dr. **Samia Suluhu Hassan for accepting the United republic of Tanzania to be the host of the 77th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.** I would also like to extend My sincere gratitude to the staff of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights for the efficient implementation of their tasks in the preparation of this session. This session brings together various stakeholder for deliberation and putting in place guidelines for the aims of protecting and promotion of human rights I to the people of the African continent. You have successful coordinated this session outside the headquarters of the Commission in Banjul, the Gambia.

Dear Participants,

I have been informed that during the proceedings of this session various human rights thematic areas were deliberated. These includes; Africa Human Rights Day celebration, with a focus on Maputo Protocol@20

- i. Human Rights Situation in Africa;
- ii. Launch of the various documents of the Commission;
- iii. Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa;
- iv. Chairperson of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa;
- v. Chairperson of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa;
- vi. Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty and Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa;
- vii. Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications;
- viii. Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa;
- ix. Chairperson of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa;
- x. Vice Chairperson of the ACHPR & Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa;
- xi. Chairperson of the ACHPR on activities of the Chairperson, The Bureau & Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Reprisals in Africa.

Dear Participants,

Through this important session we have seen how when stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of human and peoples rights come together, much can be discussed to further enhance our efforts. Therefore, I urge all to continue to enhance their efforts for the benefit of the people of Africa and future generations.

Dear Participants,

The close of the 77th Ordinary Session is the start of the 78th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. The achievements of this meeting is the result of cooperation and participation of a broad range of actors important to the promotion and

protection of human rights. I urge and encourage all these diverse actors from across Africa to continue to work together to meet the aspirations of the 77th Session and for an even more successful 78th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Dear Participants,

Before I conclude my speech, I want to wholeheartedly thank all participants. Those of you who travelled many miles to come all the way to Arusha, those who have travelled across the country and those from here and nearby areas. The participation has indeed been encouraging to the human rights agenda. I wish you all safe travels back. I also warmly welcome you back to Tanzania for business and pleasure and to continue to enjoy our attractions in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Hon. Chairman,

After these few words it is now my esteemed honour and privilege to declare that the 77th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held here in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania is officially CLOSED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND WELCOME BACK TO TANZANIA.