

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS HON.  
ANGELLAH JASMINE KAIRUKI (MP) TO THE  
CONTINUOUS LEGAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
PRECEDING TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOT  
CONFERENCE HALL, DAR-ES-SALAAM, 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2013**

---

*Madam Aisha Bade, Chairperson of the Tanzania Women  
Lawyers Association,*

*Dr. Asha-rose Migiro, Former Deputy Secretary General of the  
United Nations,*

*Members of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association,*

*Distinguished Members of the Tanganyika Law Society present  
here today,*

*Invited Guest,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let me begin by expressing my very sincere thanks and gratitude to you Madam Aisha Bade, the Chairperson of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), and the Executive council of TAWLA for inviting me to officiate at the opening of this conference preceding the Annual General Meeting.

I feel very much privileged and honoured to address this important gathering of my learned sisters. I am also privileged to do so in the company of distinguished Members of TAWLA including Honourable Justice Eusebia Munuo, and Ambassador Mwanaidi Majaar. I must admit at the outset that these two great women and Hon. Dr. Asha –Rose Migiro have

been my role models in so many ways. I thank them for being with us this morning.

**Madam Chairperson,**

When I was invited to officiate at this function, I asked myself, what is it that I am going to say before this august gathering of legal luminaries. However, recognizing the important role TAWLA is playing in forging unity and co-operation among women lawyers and promoting the women and children's rights and good governance in Tanzania, I didn't have even the slightest hesitation in accepting the invitation.

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and on my own behalf to thank TAWLA for successfully implementing its primary

objectives to serve the vulnerable women and children. Indeed, TAWLA has lived up to its vision and mission by becoming a voice to the voiceless, responding to the cry of justice and providing leadership to the worthwhile initiatives that safeguard women's interests. No wonder, many more women lawyers have decided to join this important association because of its worthy causes- Hongereni sana.

**Madam Chairperson,**

We are gathered here today against the background of the recent 103rd anniversary of the International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, whose theme "Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum" has a significant linkage with the theme of your Conference "from being defensive to being proactive: Women land and investment".

The fact that delegates will hear presentation about issues related to access to land and capital for women, implies that the gender agenda is indeed, gaining momentum. More so, TAWLA's work in promoting women's land rights through coordination of Gender Land Task Force, has added greater value in the land reforms that has seen the guarantee of equal ownership of land and property to women.

**Madam Chairperson, and fellow TAWLA members,**

The Government of Tanzania is fully committed to avail equal opportunities to women and men to own land as provided for by the Constitution, Laws, Policies and several government programmes. The challenge that remains for TAWLA and other stakeholders is to assist women in Tanzania especially

those from the rural areas to take advantage of available mechanisms to fight poverty. We can and we should play our part.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Allow me to also use this opportunity to talk about two other important issues of the day that require TAWLA's active attention and participation. As you are all aware, our Country is undergoing Constitutional Review Process. The Constitutional Review Commission is now analyzing the views that were collected from the public and will shortly produce a Draft Constitution for consideration by Constitutional Fora countrywide.

I urge TAWLA members to actively participate in this process without fail. TAWLA, as a professional body, can request the Constitutional Review Commission to constitute itself as a Constitutional Forum to review the Draft. We are expecting to have the final draft for consideration by the Constituent Assembly later this year. After the Assembly concludes its work the draft will be presented to the people for final endorsement through a referendum. If all goes according to plan, by next year we shall have a New Constitution.

**My fellow TAWLA Members,**

We all have a role to play in ensuring that our interests are taken into account in the envisaged Constitution. We have the responsibility to make sure that the New Constitution includes features that lay a foundation for non-discriminative, equality

and human dignity. We have the historical duty to ensure that our New Constitution is progressive. Let us grab this opportunity and create a better tomorrow for the young generation and the betterment of our Country. Let us actively participate in all remaining stages of writing our Country's new Constitution.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Another issue that I would like to talk about before I conclude my remarks is the issue of legal aid. I know a lot has been done by TAWLA in this area. I urge you all to continue with this noble cause.

I also call upon senior members of TAWLA to provide mentorship to young members so that they may learn from the best and gain experience in legal practice.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Having said all this, it is now my pleasant duty and honour, to declare this TAWLA Annual General Meeting, officially opened. I wish you very successful outcome.

**I thank you for your kind attention! Asanteni Sana.**