



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

June 1, 2016

Ref: MP06012016-01

Hon. Joseph Mbilinyi, MP
National Assembly,
P.O. Box 941,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Email: j.mbilinyi@bunge.go.tz, tanzparl@bunge.go.tz, tanzparl@parliament.go.tz

Dear Hon. Joseph Mbilinyi,

Re: DICOTA's Statement on Misrepresented Facts about Andrew Sanga's Memorial Ceremony during the DICOTA Convention

We are writing to clarify the statements made during the Parliament Session on 05/31/2016 regarding the memorial ceremony of our beloved Andrew Sanga, on Saturday April 30th 2016. On behalf of the Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America (DICOTA), we would like to share the following facts as we know them.

On April 28 – May 1 2016, the DICOTA Convention drew over 300 delegates. The convention was held at the Hyatt Regency North Dallas, 701 E Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75081, U.S.A. His Excellency, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, was the guest of honor and delivered the keynote speech through his representative Ambassador Wilson Masilingi, Tanzania's Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Masilingi was at the convention in an official capacity to represent President John Magufuli.

The convention brought together members of the Tanzanian Diaspora in the United States of America, Tanzanian private sector and government officials; key decision makers from Tanzania and U.S. businesses; financial institutions, and international organizations with vested interest in investment and growth in the country. The conference presented attendees with the latest trade and investment opportunities in all sectors of the economy, while providing a forum for potential partnership formation through many networking opportunities. The Convention was also officiated by the Governor of Texas, Mayors of Dallas and Richardson cities; and April 29th officially declared Tanzanian Diaspora Day in the State of Texas through the proclamation presented to DICOTA and convention delegates.

Planning the DICOTA Convention takes a minimum of one year, and includes a local steering committee where the Convention is held. For the 2016 Convention, DICOTA collaborated with six Tanzania Diaspora communities: (1) City of Dallas (Texas), our primary host; (2) City of Austin (Texas); (3) City of Houston (Texas); (4) City of Kansas City (Kansas/Missouri); (5) City of Wichita (Kansas); and (6) City of Oklahoma City (Oklahoma). Together along with DICOTA's board members, executive committee members, and national volunteers - over 45 planners across 11 committees collaborated for almost a year in planning the 2016 DICOTA Convention.

Since DICOTA began preparations for the 2016 DICOTA Convention in the Spring of 2015, the Tanzania Embassy in Washington DC has worked closely with DICOTA, offering the utmost cooperation, including during Ambassador Liberata Mulamula's tenure followed by Ambassador Wilson Masilingi's arrival. In September 2015, DICOTA invited President Jakaya Kikwete to kick-off the DICOTA 2016 Convention preparations. President Kikwete honored our invitation but was not able to attend in person, and instead sent a representative, Ambassador Masilingi from the Washington DC Tanzania Embassy.



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Sadly, days leading up to the DICOTA Convention, the Tanzania US Diaspora community suffered two tragedies in the State of Texas. Henry Kiherile and Andrew Sanga were murdered within 7 days of each other. DICOTA's leadership remained in close contact with the Tanzania Houston Community Leadership and representatives of the deceased families, in addition to postponing all Convention promotional activities to allow a period of mourning (including the weekend immediately before the convention).

Upon learning the date of the Memorial Service for Andrew Sanga (second business day of the DICOTA Convention, April 30th 2016), the Ambassador notified DICOTA that he would attend the Convention, represent President Magufuli and deliver his remarks to DICOTA Convention delegates, while sending an official Embassy representative to the Memorial Service in Houston together with a monetary contribution for both families.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify that DICOTA as an organization is not involved in any petition seeking signatures to remove Ambassador Masilingi from serving as the Tanzania Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Masilingi and the Tanzania Embassy in Washington DC remain a strong supporter of DICOTA's mission and vision.

Last but not least, we would like to applaud and recognize your support of the diaspora and the role of the diaspora in Tanzania's social and economic development. We are advocates and proponents for retaining the birth rights of Tanzanians living abroad and thank you for bringing attention to this particular topic.

We hope that this letter clarifies some facts related to the convention, and we hope that you have an opportunity to amend the records of events.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Ndaga Mwakabuta,
President

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- 2 Hon. Job Y. Ndugai
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- 3 H.E. Dr. Aziz Ponary Mlima,
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- 4 H.E. Ambassador Anisa Mbega
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- 5 H.E. Ambassador Wilson Masilingi,
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- 6 Mr. Daudi Mayocha,
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