

***Address at the Shandong (Weihai) – Tanzania Economic and Trade Exchange and Investment Promotion Conference.***

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- Honourable Zhang Qingwei, Deputy Director General of the Department of Commerce of Shandong Province and Deputy Director of the Office China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone;
- Honourable Zhang Shandong, Vice of Weihai Municipal People’s Government;
- Honourable Wang Dezhi, Director of Weihai Municipal Bureau of Commerce;
- Hon. Alphonse Martin Mwakasege, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of United Republic of Tanzania, China and other Government Leaders from Tanzania;
- Dr. Lisa Wang Xiangyun – Chairperson of Weihai Huatan Supply Chain Management Co. Ltd. and Chairperson of the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Centre
- All Distinguished Representatives of the Business Community Present here
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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***Good Afternoon!***

It is a great honour for me to be here in China today, a country whose remarkable economic transformation over the past four decades

has inspired much of the developing world. China's experience demonstrates how strategic planning, investment in people, infrastructure, and industrialization can transform a nation within a generation.

I am particularly pleased to have been able to return to Weihai, a city that provides simultaneous access to both coast and mountain! Indeed, the spectacular maritime view of the city brings a spontaneous home sickness of our own coastal city of Dar es Salaam, and indeed the needed motivation as we seek to transform our city into a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century city.

Please allow me, at the onset, to convey warm greetings from **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania**, and from the people of Tanzania.

China and Tanzania share a **long-standing and historic partnership**. Our cooperation dates back many decades and is symbolised by landmark projects such as the **TAZARA Railway**, which remains one of Africa's most powerful symbols of solidarity and South–South cooperation. Today, we gather not only to celebrate this friendship, but to **build the next chapter of economic partnership between Tanzania and China**. This important pan-African project was constructed by and with the friendly support of China in the 1970s at the time that the Republic was not as prosperous as it is today. This symbolises China's long standing commitment to promoting Africa's development initiatives.

**Dear colleagues, let me speak briefly about Tanzania as a strategic investment destination.**

Tanzania is one of Africa's most promising investment destinations. With a population of more than **70 million people**, political stability, and a rapidly growing economy, our country offers a strong foundation for long-term investment. We are also strategically located on the eastern coast of Africa, serving as a **gateway to a regional market of more than 300 million people** through two strong regional economic communities, namely the **East African Community** and the **Southern African Development Community**. We are also strong member of the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), providing access to continental market of more than 1 billion people. This means that when you invest in Tanzania, you are not investing only in Tanzania—you are investing in a much larger regional market.

Under the leadership of **Samia Suluhu Hassan**, Tanzania has undertaken significant reforms to improve the business environment, strengthen investor protection, and promote private sector-led growth.

## **Our Long-Term Vision: Tanzania Dira 2050**

Tanzania is currently implementing an ambitious long-term national development vision known as **Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050)**. This vision aims to transform Tanzania into an upper middle income knowledge-based, **industrialised and competitive economy by 2050**. Partnerships with global investors—including those from China—will be essential in achieving these goals.

Tanzania offers several **priority areas for investment that provide** enormous opportunities for partnership. Let me highlight some of the key strategic sectors.

### ***1. Manufacturing and Industrial Parks***

Tanzania is positioning itself as a **manufacturing hub for East and Southern Africa**. We are developing industrial parks, export processing zones, and special economic zones to support manufacturing investment. Chinese companies have extensive experience in industrialisation, and we welcome partnerships in areas such as:

- Textiles and garments
- Electronics assembly
- Construction materials
- Machinery and equipment

### ***2. Infrastructure and Logistics***

Infrastructure remains a critical driver of economic transformation. Tanzania is currently investing heavily in:

- Ports and maritime logistics
- Railways and transport corridors
- Energy generation and transmission
- Urban infrastructure.

Major projects such as the **Standard Gauge Railway (Tanzania)** are transforming our logistics network and improving connectivity to landlocked countries in the region. Our preferred model is public and private partnership (PPP) and we have earmarked a number of projects in this regard.

### ***3. Agriculture and Agro-Processing***

Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy, employing a large proportion of our population. Opportunities exist in enhancing productivity with the view to transforming Tanzania into Africa's food basket and agri-business hub. The greatest opportunity in agriculture particularly lies in **agro-processing and value addition**. We invite investors to partner with us in:

- Food processing
- Fertiliser production
- Irrigation technology
- Agricultural mechanisation

With vast arable land and favourable climate conditions, Tanzania offers immense potential for large-scale agribusiness.

### ***4. Minerals and Critical Resources***

Tanzania is endowed with abundant mineral resources including gold, rare earth elements, graphite, and strategic minerals required for the global energy transition.

We are encouraging **value addition within Tanzania**, including mineral processing and battery-related industries.

## ***5. Tourism and the Blue Economy***

Tanzania is home to some of the world's most iconic tourist destinations, including the **Serengeti National Park**, **Mount Kilimanjaro**, and the beautiful islands of **Zanzibar**.

Investment opportunities exist in:

- Tourism infrastructure
- Eco-tourism
- Cruise and marine tourism
- Coastal economic activities

Our government is fully committed to creating a predictable and competitive investment environment.

We have taken several steps, including:

- Strengthening investment facilitation through the **Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority**
- Streamlining regulations and licensing procedures
- Expanding public–private partnerships
- Improving infrastructure and logistics

Our delegation is here not only to promote opportunities but also to build **long-term partnerships**. We welcome Chinese enterprises to collaborate with Tanzania in areas such as:

- i) Developing modern industrial parks and Special Economic Zones
- ii) Advancing technology transfer and innovation

- iii) Expanding manufacturing capacity for global markets
- iv) Supporting minerals value addition and supply chain development
- v) Increasing agricultural production and agro-processing.

Our message to investors is simple: **Tanzania is open for business.** With more than 1000 Chinese enterprises, China currently is the largest investor in Tanzania with a capital investment of US\$ 3.4 billion dollars (23 billion RB), representing 50 percent of the total of the top ten largest investors in Tanzania, as in March 2026. In terms of employment, Chinese investment has generated 90,414 jobs, which is 76 percent of the top ten largest investors in Tanzania.

One example of the successful Chinese investor in Tanzania is your is the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Centre Ltd., a company lead by your own Dr. Lisa Wang Xiangyun – Chairperson of Weihai Huatan Supply Chain Management Co. Ltd. This investment has transformed the landscape of the City of Dar es Salaam, making it one of the attractive business in the city.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

As I conclude let me reiterate that the story of China over the last four decades is a story of vision, discipline, and transformation. Tanzania is now embarking on its own journey of transformation. We invite you to be part of this journey.

Let us build together a stronger economic partnership between Tanzania and Shandong (Weihai)—one that promotes investment, innovation, and shared prosperity for generations to come. Yesterday the Director General of the Shandong Provincial Department of Commerce and I made a series of recommendations on how to enhance the economic and trade collaboration between our two countries and our two cities. It is my hope that we will be able to translate those ideas and proposals into concrete actions soon!

I thank you for your attention, and I look forward to welcoming many of you to Tanzania.

**Karibuni sana.**

Thank you very much.