STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MIZENGO PINDA (MP), PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE OCCASION OF A STATE DINNER IN HONOUR OF RIGHT HONOURABLE MADAM LUISA DIASDIOGO, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, 27 NOVEMBER 2008 – KILIMANJARO HOTEL KEMPINSKI.

Right Honourable Madam Luisa Dias Diogo,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique;

Honourable Ministers;

Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, let me express my sincere appreciation to you personally, Madam Prime Minister, the Government and the People of the Republic of Mozambique for a brotherly and warm welcome extended to me and my entire delegation during our visit and stay in Mozambique from 4 to 6 May 2008 when I was attending 2008 Biennale Conference on Education in Africa. My stay in Mozambique graciously culminated into the fruitful discussions we had on 6 May 2008. I recall we discussed a range of issues, inter alia, the political and economic situation, HIV/AIDS, global fuel prices and problems of refugees. Thus, your visit to Tanzania is not to invent the wheel but rather to solidify what we had already started in Mozambique. The challenge before our two Sister Countries is to move into the implementation phase of whatever had been agreed before and that will be discussed and agreed during your two day visit and thereafter. It is therefore a great honor for me, and for the People and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to welcome you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, on your First Official visit to our Country. I thank you for accepting my invitation and I hope that your stay with us will be comfortable, enjoyable and fruitful.

Right Honourable Prime Minister;
Tanzania and Mozambique share strong and historic relations that arise not just from the blood relations between the people of our two Countries, but from the close ties forged among our people during the Liberation Struggle. That is when Tanzania under TANU and later Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) closed ranks with the leadership of FRELIMO to steer the Liberation Struggle in Mozambique to its logical conclusion.

We are not only among friends, but among peoples with whom we share common values and ideals. We all celebrated together when Mozambique attained her Independence in 1975, after a protracted war against Portuguese Colonialism. We celebrated again in 1992 when FRELIMO and RENAMO signed a Peace Accord ending the 16 year old civil war in your Country. “Your victory was our success and your success was our comfort.”

Right Honourable Prime Minister;
It is a tribute to the dedication of your People that your Country has recently carried out Democratic Elections at the Municipal level peacefully. Mozambique has also witnessed impressive economic growth of 7 per cent over the last few years and continues to aspire for
improved Health, Education and Infrastructural Development. These are commendable achievements that will better the lives of the people of Mozambique on the efforts to reduce poverty.

Right Honourable Prime Minister;
Solidarity amongst the peoples of our two Countries did not end with the attainment of Independence. Tanzania and Mozambique have maintained very close and indeed strategic co-operation in the post Independence area in all spheres of life.
Under the able Leadership of the Founding Fathers of our Nations and their successors, Tanzania and Mozambique have worked closely in Region and International Fora, including SADC, AU, UN, Commonwealth and the Non Aligned Movement in the promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in the Region and the development of African Continent.
The invaluable contribution of Ambassador Francisco Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Comoro and the continued invaluable support and mediation efforts of the former President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Joachim Chisano in the mediation between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army, are a tribute to your Country and your continued dedication to the attainment and maintenance of peace on the Continent.
Strategic partnership between Tanzania and Mozambique has also involved trade that has continued to flourish over the years. Statistics show that trade between our two Nations has increased exponentially. Tanzanian exports to Mozambique have increased from US$1.5 Million in 2000 to US$8.6 Million in 2005 and sharply increased to US$ 19.1 Million in 2007. Imports from Mozambique have also increased from US$129,000 in 2000 to US$2.5 Million in 2005 and risen to about US$ 16.9 Million in 2007. This increase also provide a room for further expansion of the Volume of Trade.
In the furtherance of our aspiration to expand trade between our two Countries, Tanzania and Mozambique signed a Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) in 1992 to facilitate co-operation and strengthen the bonds of Fraternity and Friendship. To date, the Joint Permanent Commission has successfully achieved the abolition of Visas for Diplomatic and Service Passports between our two Countries. This move sets in place a firmer foundation for co-operation between the Private Sector, and Entrepreneurs on both sides.
I am pleased to note that Good Neighborliness Meetings between our two Countries that foster inclusive discussion of cross border problems and solutions take place on a regular basis. The last meeting was held on the 29 March 2007, in Mtwara. This meeting deliberated crosscutting issues, including illegal migration, smuggling, cross-border crimes and prevention of drug and illegal arms trafficking with a view to curbing them.

Right Honourable Prime Minister;
In the spirit of closer co-operation, our two Countries co-own the Centre for Foreign Relations that was established to train Civil Servants in the Diplomatic field.
Tanzania and Mozambique have also undertaken the ambitious construction of the Unity Bridge spanning River Ruvuma with the aim of uniting our two Countries by road. The completion of the Unity Bridge is expected to further deepen the Trade and Investment opportunities and links between our peoples in Southern Tanzania and Northern Mozambique. This is by pulling in agro-economic and non-agricultural investment into Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma Regions in Tanzania and Cape Delgado and Pemba in Mozambique. It is worthy endeavor and I believe that, the completion of this Project will witness the dawn of a new era in co-operation. In the meantime, accessibility to both sides across the River has been made
possible since July 2008, after the construction of a 78 metre long Bridge, which connects the People of Ruvuma Region in Tanzania with those of Niassa Province in Mozambique.

**Right Honourable Prime Minister;**
Challenges that are related to support facilities after the completion of the Projects, such as immigration, customs, police posts, banks, communications, water, electricity and issues related to health are crucial and need to be addressed as matter of urgency. I am glad to note that, negotiations to establish a One Stop Border Post at the Umoja Bridge in Mtwara to facilitate easier clearance of persons and goods between our two Countries are in progress. In recent years, and because of the globalization phenomenon, One Stop Border Posts have been found to be facilitative of easier flow of persons and goods across borders as well as enhancing efficient security controls.

**Right Honourable Prime Minister;**
Despite our dedicated efforts, our two Countries, like most Developing Nations, still face a number of challenges. Amongst the most urgent ones being energy, infrastructure, ICT, human resource capacity, capturing investment opportunities and tackling the spread of HIV/AIDS. I believe that, with closer co-operation between our two Countries, these can be tackled. For as a wise man once said, ‘**Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage!**’

**Honourable Prime Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**
May I take this opportunity once again to thank you for visiting us and wish you once again a fruitful stay in Tanzania.

May I request you, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to join me in a toast for:
- Continued good health and long life of His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique;
- Continued good health and prosperity of the Peoples and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique;
- Abiding Friendship, Co-operation, Solidarity and Brotherhood between Mozambicans and Tanzanians.

**Thank you very Much!**