

## **Hon Dr Mary Nagu's Speech**

### **Tanzanian Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing**

Thank you both Mr. Kiilu and Honourable Mkono for your inspirational speeches and warm welcome.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman, dear guests,

I am honoured to be a part of this event in this wonderful setting today.

As Mr. Kiilu and Mr. Kumar explained, these Awards celebrate the extraordinary CSR initiatives and contributions of East African and Tanzanian businesses. They highlight the benefits of a fruitful and long-lasting partnership between the public and, private sectors can bring for the region's social, environmental and economic development.

The Government of Tanzania recognises the unique contribution the private sector plays in enhancing our economic growth and social development. We have set out an ambitious agenda to nurture a sustainable environment in which both businesses and communities can flourish.. We have been collaborating with the private sector and other stakeholders in formulating, a range of policies for trade, industry and marketing. These policies aim to create a strong and competitive economy driven by healthy competition and an efficient trade and marketing system. Some of our recent achievements include creating assurances of production and increasing the availability of quality goods for local and international markets.

The Government of Tanzania has also been active on a range of sustainability initiatives including the installation of a solar hybrid drier at Kigoma, the adoption of the Zero Waste Strategy, partaking in Environmental Audits and delivering environmental sustainability seminars for CEOs of African business.

We are also very proud that Tanzania has been selected as the hosts of the 20th World Economic Forum on Africa and the Bank M East African CSR Awards, both events taking place for the very first time in East Africa. This is testimony to the significant progress that we have made and the extraordinary potential that our country and region holds. Through these forums, we are hoping to explore new opportunities and ways in which the government and businesses can collaborate to create a new Roadmap for Africa's future growth.

The Bank M East African CSR Awards reflect an important element of WEF Africa's theme: Rethinking Africa's growth strategy. This means understanding the importance of social responsibility and that it goes hand in hand with economic prosperity. The CSR Awards not only highlight this important truth but also serve as a guideline as to what good CSR really is- and how it should be celebrated.

I would therefore like to extend my thanks to all those who organised these Awards and made them such a great success - the secretariat, the judges, the companies for their contributions - and most importantly Bank M and Dow for their generous sponsorship.

Congratulations to all the shortlisted candidates and best of luck! I hope you continue your good works and that your success acts as a guide for more exemplary CSR initiatives, both in this region and in all of Africa.