

**SPEECH BY, MR. A.B.S. KILEWO: CHAIRMAN, TANZANIA PRIVATE  
SECTOR FOUNDATION (TPSF)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCHING THE TANZANIA NATIONAL  
BUSINESS COUNCIL (TNBC)**

**AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2001.**

**Your Excellency: Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of  
Tanzania**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Members of the Diplomatic Corp.**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**On behalf of the Private Sector, the Task Force on the Formation of the Tanzania National Business Council and on my own behalf, allow me to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you in this great event.**

**Ever since the Tanzania Government decided to transfer part of its functions and responsibilities to the private sector, it has anxiously been concerned about having a strong private sector organization with which it could regularly carry out dialogue on socio-economic development of the country. The Government continued to dialogue with the Private Sector on an ad hoc basis, until in November 1998 when the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) was established to serve as a focal point of the private sector for policy impact and advocacy.**

**Mr. President,**

**We have arrived here today from a long and frustrating journey towards the establishment of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) which we jointly with the Government, embarked on seven years ago. Today we put these frustrations behind us and take opportunity to share a positive belief that our problems impeding economic growth could be resolved through dialogue and mutual appreciation. May I take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude in welcoming the birth of TNBC, which we trust should facilitate improved and effective participation of the private sector in policy formulation.**

**The idea of establishing TNBC was first gauged in 1995. As some of us here could remember, in January 1995, UNIDO undertook a major initiative by organizing in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire a “*Meeting of Private Sector Experts on Industrialization of Africa.*”**

**This was followed, in the same year, by another meeting of African Ministers of Industry on “Private Sector: Key to Sustained Economic Growth and Integration” jointly organized by UNIDO, OAU and ECA. It was proposed that in order to enhance Private Sector participation in African economies, a national committee consisting of Government officials and private sector executives and organizations be set up in each African country to realize this important objective. A follow-up meeting at the Apeado Hall in Dar es Salaam in June 1995 resolved the formation of a National Business Council. A Steering Committee to expedite this task was set up. In a Stakeholders Workshop sponsored by DANIDA in May 1997, it was unanimously resolved that The Tanzania National Business Council be formed without delay.**

**Mr. President,**

**The Steering Committee continued to liaise with the Government through the Ministry of Industry and Trade as well as the Attorney General on how the TNBC should be established. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1998, you, Mr. President invited me and a few colleagues to an informal discussion. Mr. President, at that time you felt that the TNBC should have been in place yesterday! But because of the various interests expressed from varied quarters, the task proved to be a little complex. The continued search for an effective consultative mechanism for public-private sector was intensified by the formation of a Task Force in 1999 which considered a number of models, and ultimately steered a middle course between a highly legalised South African model to the more flexible model of Mauritius. The Task force presented its report to Stakeholders Workshop held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2000 where the structure of the Council was approved. A Presidential Circular for the establishment of the TNBC was also drafted and presented to the State House for final approval. Following this approval, an Implementation Committee of six members under the chairmanship of Honorable Chief Secretary was established in April 2000 to replace the Task Force. This Committee has worked hard to ensure we reach this important land mark today.**

**Mr. President,**

**We cannot, however underestimate the enormity of the challenges that are ahead of us in the pursuit of our vision. The success of TNBC will depend on the capacity of the Secretariat of both the TPSF and TNBC. The strong Tanzania Private Sector Foundation will equally reflect the capacity of its constituents and ability to coordinate, synthesize views and ideas coherently to the benefit of the TNBC. On the other hand, the TNBC Secretariat should be able to handle more expeditiously all papers submitted and service the Working Committees of TNBC. It is my hope therefore that the Government will see the need to complement the private sector in achieving this objective. In this regard, we wish to thank the Government for allocating a building, that will house both TNBC and TPSF Secretariat.**

**We are heartened by this event today, which we believe is an outcome of goodwill efforts and commitment of all those who have made noble contributions: material**

and financial, to this stage where we now see good signs of fruition of our investment.

On behalf of the Private Sector, the Steering Committee, the Task Force on the Formation of the Tanzania National Business Council and the Implementation Committee I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and encouragement we have received from you as evidenced at various occasions, particularly when closing the Parliament on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

Our gratitude goes to USAID who made it possible for Steering Committee to undertake a study tour to Uganda and funded TPSF to be able, not only to spear head the formation of TNBC, but also to host all the meetings of the Task Force. We also must mention the donor agencies that have in various ways provided both funds and other support to member associations to strengthen their capacity to contribute effectively to a national dialogue namely the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Our special gratitude also goes to United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Besides providing a Senior Private Sector Expert as a resource person to the Task Force, UNIDO has also provided immediate office equipment for the preparations of the launching and financial support for this event.

Further, our sincere appreciation goes to members of the Task Force, whose good advice and tireless efforts contributed to the production of the report that has been the basis for TNBC structure, particularly when we could not afford to pay sitting allowance. Similarly, our appreciation goes to TPSF Secretariat and all member associations for their valuable contributions.

Special recognition goes to the following Government Ministries which participated in the Steering Committee, namely: Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, the Planning Commission, Attorney General Chamber and the State House. I would also wish to thank the Chief Secretary for his dedicated support and for being so effective as the Chairman of the Implementation Committee.

Finally our sincere appreciation goes to all invited and distinguished guests who left other pressing engagements so that they could participate in this great event. We believe that, the same spirit of dedication and commitment would be forthcoming in the process of national consultative mechanism.

**I strongly believe that all the support and commitments to date have laid a concrete foundation for more tangible results to be expected out of TNBC.**

**Your Excellency, Mr. President, once again thank you for being with us today.**

**Dar Es salaam 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2000**