

SPEECH OF ENGINEER MUSA IYOMBE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION THAT CONDUCTED THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT DECISION ON THE VOLUNTARY RELOCATION EXERCISE OF RESIDENTS OF THE NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA TO MSOMERA (HANDENI), KITWAI B (SIMANJIRO), SAUNYI (KILINDI) AND OTHER AREAS.

12 MARCH 2026, STATE HOUSE, CHAMWINO, DODOMA.

Your Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan.

PROTOCOL.

Your Excellency the President, I begin by thanking Almighty God the Most Merciful for granting us life and good health which enabled us to prepare this important report for the benefit of our nation. With great humility, I extend my sincere gratitude to you for trusting me, my eight fellow members (8), and the Secretariat to conduct the assessment of the voluntary relocation exercise of residents of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

Your Excellency the President, on 23 December 2024, you established the Commission and inaugurated it on 20 February 2025, to conduct the assessment of the voluntary relocation exercise of residents within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Arusha Region to Msomera (Handeni), Saunyi (Kilindi) in Tanga Region, Kitwai (Simanjiro in Manyara Region), and other areas.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission carried out its work in accordance with fifteen (15) Terms of Reference and has prepared a report of 318 pages. In executing its mandate, the Commission reviewed various documents, held internal and public meetings, and conducted face to face

interviews with various stakeholders, including a former Prime Minister, Ministers of the relevant ministries, Permanent Secretaries of sectors involved in the relocation exercise, Regional Commissioners of Arusha, Manyara, and Tanga, District Commissioners of Ngorongoro, Simanjiro, Handeni, and Kilindi, the leadership of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), experts, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), tourism stakeholders, religious leaders, traditional leaders (Malaigwani), and the general public. Furthermore, the Commission visited all eleven (11) wards of Ngorongoro Division to obtain representation of all twenty five (25) villages within the Division, as well as the villages of Kitwai B, Saunyi, and Msomera.

Your Excellency the President, the findings of the assessment show that the Government's intention to implement the voluntary relocation exercise in order to improve the lives of citizens and protect the ecology of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area has not been achieved as expected. At the time the Commission concluded field work, one thousand six hundred seventy eight (1,678) households equivalent to 7.3 percent of 23,000 households had relocated, and forty thousand five hundred ninety three (40,593) livestock equivalent to 5.7 percent of 715,466 livestock had been moved from within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

1.1. Views and Recommendations.

Your Excellency the President, I hereby present some of the issues identified by the Commission in its assessment together with views and recommendations regarding improvement of the voluntary relocation exercise of residents of the

Ngorongoro Conservation Area to Msomera, Kitwai B, Saunyi, and other areas as follows.

1.1.1. Voluntary Relocation.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission is of the view that through various reports during the assessment and discussions with stakeholders it is clearly shown that the decision for residents within the Conservation Area to relocate is fundamental. The reports indicating the importance of voluntary relocation include the report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), the Law Reform Commission, the report of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the report of the Multiple Land Use Model, the Cabinet decision, and requests from some citizens who wrote letters to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) requesting voluntary relocation.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the voluntary relocation exercise should continue to be coordinated supervised and implemented properly taking into account the improvements recommended by the Commission. Therefore voluntary relocation should continue for citizens in the areas designated by the Government namely Kitwai B Msomera Saunyi and other areas. This recommendation is based on the fact that by the time the Commission concluded field work funds amounting to Tanzanian shillings 212,345,958,314.17 had not yet been used and there were 1,559 completed houses in the Msomera area which had not been allocated to people.

1.1.2. Areas Designated by the Government and Investments Made.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission has noted the designated areas of Msomera Kitwai B and Saunyi set by the Government through the re-designation of part of the Handeni and Kitwai Game Controlled Area. The Commission is satisfied that these areas resemble the environment of the areas from which the pastoral communities of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area originated and are suitable for various activities including livestock keeping agriculture business and other economic activities. Furthermore the Government has invested funds in the construction of various projects and infrastructure of high value where in Kitwai B Saunyi and Msomera Tanzanian shillings 114,357,317,457.40 have been used.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the Government should complete the construction of social service infrastructure such as roads water schools electricity cattle dips and dams in order to receive residents who will voluntarily relocate to those areas.

1.1.3. Amendments to the NCA Law and Development of Regulations.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission has identified shortcomings in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Act Chapter 284 which create challenges in implementation. For example the Act recognizes only one ethnic group of Maasai living within the Conservation Area while there are other ethnic groups including the Datoga.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the law should be amended and some provisions including section 6(c) should be removed in order to eliminate the perception of discrimination. In addition regulations should be developed to establish management procedures including

control of people and livestock and control of construction of hotels and tourism camps.

1.1.4. Government Decision on House Construction.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission is of the view that the decision to construct houses at that time was appropriate. However it has been observed that its implementation had shortcomings that need to be addressed.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the Government should stop the decision to construct houses for citizens relocating to Msomera Kitwai B and Saunyi. Instead it should provide a monetary allowance to be discussed and agreed upon so that citizens can relocate voluntarily and build houses in accordance with their traditions and customs. This will reduce costs and unnecessary complaints.

1.1.5. Coordination System of the Voluntary Relocation Exercise.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission is of the view that the coordination system through the Prime Minister's Office and the Technical Committee of Experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism involved overlapping of routine day to day functions, and therefore it was not efficient. This challenge was caused by a coordination and implementation structure that did not have an accountable body responsible for supervision, implementation, and reporting that would be verified and given feedback for improving efficiency or making corrections.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that an independent body should be established to coordinate the voluntary relocation exercise (Project Management Team).

1.1.6. Public Participation.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission's assessment on the issue of public participation in the voluntary relocation exercise of residents of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area shows that the process was not participatory in the preparation and implementation of the relocation plan. The Commission has found that the exercise, from the citizens' side, was conducted through persuasion to relocate rather than through meaningful participation.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that a public and stakeholder participation plan should be prepared for the implementation of the voluntary relocation exercise. This plan should include education at all relevant levels, involving the affected citizens, traditional leaders (Malaigwanani), councillors, all government leaders, political leaders, and religious leaders.

1.1.7. Conflicting Guidelines and Different Criteria.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission is of the view that one of the issues that caused the voluntary relocation exercise to progress slowly was the change in guidelines that allowed incentives to be given to some households in the first phase and those in the second phase. In the first phase, which involved 103 houses, each household received a house and an incentive of 10,000,000 Tanzanian shillings. Changes in the guidelines were made in the second phase,

where the head of the boma was recognized and given an incentive (amount not specified) and one house even if he had more than one wife (household).

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the Government should review the prepared guidelines and address the issue of incentives without affecting the implementation already carried out, in order to prevent new complaints from residents who have relocated to Msomera.

1.1.8. Identification of People and Settlements.

Your Excellency the President, despite the existence of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the Commission is of the view that there are challenges regarding the actual number of residents due to the absence of a proper register of people and livestock. Furthermore, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority does not have accurate statistics on the number of people living within the Conservation Area.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office (TAMISEMI), should prepare a register of people and livestock for all residents within the Ngorongoro Division.

1.1.9. Implementation Plan.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission has identified the absence of a specific implementation plan that was prepared for the voluntary relocation exercise and discussed at the Cabinet Secretariat level.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism should prepare a specific voluntary relocation implementation plan and have it discussed by the Cabinet.

1.1.10. Citizens' Complaints.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission received complaints which are divided into three groups. The first group consists of those who remained inside the Conservation Area. The second group consists of those who relocated to Msomera. The third group consists of the indigenous residents of Msomera.

Your Excellency the President, the complaints from citizens who remained inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area include restriction of social services, diversion of development project funds, abolition of villages within Ngorongoro Division, abolition of the Pastoral Council, changes of polling stations, restrictions on entry into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, employment restrictions in hotels for local people, transfer of NCAA staff who are indigenous residents, lack of transparency in the registration and valuation team, violation of traditions and customs, denial of settlement development opportunities, conspiracy and negative propaganda against the community living inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, investments being carried out within the Conservation Area, and relocation of the NCAA headquarters from Ngorongoro District to Karatu District.

Your Excellency the President, citizens who relocated to Msomera also had their own complaints, including dissatisfaction with compensation and the provision of one house per boma instead of per household. The third group,

which consists of indigenous residents of Msomera, complained that their land was surveyed and allocated to newcomers, resulting in some areas experiencing land conflicts. The Commission is of the view that complaints from all sides are valid, and although the Government has been addressing the challenges that arose, some have not been adequately resolved.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that:

(i) Deficiencies that slowed the voluntary relocation exercise and caused citizen complaints should be corrected to enable citizens to continue relocating voluntarily.

(ii) The Prime Minister's Office (TAMISEMI) and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development should go and resolve land conflicts.

(iii) The Pastoral Council should be restored with financial authority and required to manage those funds in accordance with public finance laws governing public expenditure.

(iv) The Government should continue providing social services through existing infrastructure for citizens living inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

(v) The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority should implement legal requirements to prepare a General Management Plan (GMP) for the Conservation Area.

1.1.11. Achievements in the Voluntary Relocation Exercise.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission has observed that since the voluntary relocation exercise began in 2022, several achievements have been realized, including the following:

(i) Improved Living Conditions for Residents Relocated to Msomera.

Your Excellency the President, the Msomera area now has infrastructure including roads, communication services, electricity, water, dispensaries, health centres, a police station, a post office, cattle dips, livestock watering troughs, primary and secondary schools with science and computer laboratories, and new residential houses. Furthermore, land surveying and allocation of plots, farms, and grazing areas has been completed for those who relocated to Msomera.

(ii) Increase in Economic Activities in Msomera.

Your Excellency the President, some of the residents who relocated to Msomera have engaged in agriculture, producing food crops such as maize, beans, and cassava, enabling them to achieve food self sufficiency and sell surplus produce. In addition to agriculture, citizens are engaged in other income generating activities including livestock trading in newly established markets.

(iii) Infrastructure Developed in Kitwai B and Saunyi.

Your Excellency the President, in Kitwai B the Government has successfully constructed water, road, electricity, and communication infrastructure. Similarly, in Saunyi, road, electricity, and communication projects have been implemented. Land use planning, surveying of plots and farms has been

completed, and the Government has set aside grazing areas for citizens who will relocate to those areas.

Your Excellency the President, the Commission recommends that security committees should take responsibility to ensure protection of infrastructure in Kitwai B and Saunyi where there are still no residents, as well as in Msomera where some houses are not yet occupied.

1.2. Conclusion.

Your Excellency the President, in conclusion of my presentation, I wish to state that despite the challenges encountered during the implementation of the voluntary relocation exercise, the Government's decision to relocate residents from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area was appropriate. It is the Commission's belief that if the recommendations provided are implemented, the voluntary relocation exercise will be completed effectively.

Your Excellency the President, after saying this, I respectfully request permission to briefly present a documentary from the areas visited and assessed by the Commission. After viewing the documentary, I will once again respectfully request to formally hand over the Commission's report together with its annexes.

Your Excellency the President, I respectfully submit.