



Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Behörde für Wissenschaft und Forschung

Zweite Bürgermeisterin

**Senate luncheon on the occasion of a visit by the
Mayor of Dar es Salaam
on 14 June 2013**

Honorable Mayor,
President of the Hamburg Parliament (Mrs Veit),
Mr. Mvula,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Karibuni sana Hamburg, welcome to Hamburg! I'm very happy to receive you, Honourable Mayor, and all our guests from Dar es Salaam – also on behalf of State Secretary Schmidt, who is sorry he is not able to be with us today. But he is looking forward to meeting your delegation next week. And the First Mayor, Mr Scholz, is looking forward to seeing you this afternoon.

For all of you, this is a first visit to our city. We in Hamburg hope you will enjoy being with us, and that you will get to know the city from its most attractive side, in summer sunshine.

And not only on land, but from the water, too; because like your own city, Hamburg is closely and happily associated with this element – even though it can become dangerous at times, as many people further up the river had to realize only recently.

I am sure you will enjoy the customary trip round the port and your visit to the International Garden Show on the island of Wilhelmsburg in the Elbe river. And like Dar es Salaam, Hamburg likes to think of itself as a “haven of peace”, in the literal sense of the name.

Although I don't speak Swahili, as you have no doubt realized, the powerful metaphors of your Tanzanian

proverbs tempt me to try again:

“Milima haikutáni, lakini binadámu hukutána”:

“Mountains and valleys will never meet, but people can.”

You all know that Tanzania is a country closely associated with Hamburg – and with Germany as a whole.

On the one hand the relations are historic – and admittedly they can be viewed from different angles. Even the sculptural decorations on former trading houses here in the town centre are a constant reminder of the time when Tanganyika and Zanzibar were treated as colonies; experienced exploitation and oppression.

On the other hand we now have very close and friendly relations with Tanzania. It's nearly three

years since our former Mayor, Ole von Beust, and Adam Kimbisa met here at the Town Hall and officially sealed the “sister city” partnership with Dar es Salaam – your country’s biggest city, the seat of government and a transport hub and economic centre. That was only five years after the first official delegation from Hamburg had visited your city in order to find out which fields would be suitable for technical and specialist exchange and cooperation.

The motor for closer cooperation between our cities – besides several politicians on both sides – was Jürgen Gotthardt, at that time the Honorary Consul of Tanzania in Hamburg, who sadly died in the autumn of 2009 and was no longer able to witness the official start of the partnership.

Even in the preparatory stages of this new relationship, initial contacts and cooperation took place between our emergency services and in the

fields of waste management, water supply and port logistics. These were followed by numerous other links, more and more often outside the public sector, too; youth exchanges, school partnerships and contacts in higher education between the University of Hamburg and the University of Dar es Salaam in the sectors journalism, political science, law, sociology, economics and business.

Over 30 organizations and institutions in Hamburg have come together to form the Hamburg – Dar es Salaam network: some of them have maintained established partnerships for years.

Hardly anything can make a bigger contribution to mutual understanding than contacts of this kind between experts and ordinary citizens on the local level. Through our contact with you we have a direct source of information and opinions on the situation

and developments in an important part of Africa, which nothing can replace.

We regard it as especially valuable for the development of our sister city partnership that Tanzania now has a consular representation here. We are very pleased, and grateful to the Tanzanian government, that it has decided to open an honorary consulate in Hamburg again. Ms. Petra Hammelmann made her first official visit to the First Mayor just two weeks ago, and now holds the office of Honorary Consul of the United Republic of Tanzania. Congratulations to you!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our sister city partnership has three main aspects: first of all, we on the Hamburg side wish to offer advice and help to enhance municipal services to the population of Dar es Salaam through meetings between experts.

Secondly, there is the exchange of information in the field of teaching and research; that is of special interest to me as Hamburg's Science Senator, of course.

And last but not least, we hope to promote understanding between the different cultures and the opportunity to learn from each other.

When understood properly, this third aspect should feature strongly throughout the partnership – whether the meetings are between engineers, young people or representatives of the churches. Even projects that have been carefully planned and put into practice according to all the rules in the book are likely to fail if the partners are unable to overcome their different cultural backgrounds. Mutual respect – respect for the other's values and traditions – is our prime concern.

And what is more, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope the Hamburg side will come to realize the economic potential of our partnership and make specific use of it. In recent years, private enterprise has expanded vigorously in Tanzania; in the metropolis Dar es Salaam, especially, it is worth our companies' while to venture into trade and investment. Already there are some contacts between firms in the field of solar energy.

But it is precisely Hamburg's competence in power engineering and energy management that calls for much more vigorous exchange. This Senate promotes technology transfer and encourages every opportunity of combining economic and ecological progress in Africa and Europe through judicious investment.

Our two cities have given their cooperation a special dimension and are working intensively towards a municipal climate partnership. By 2015, Germany hopes to have initiated 50 such partnerships with cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Hamburg and Dar es Salaam have been part of the project from the beginning. This week the pilot phase ended with an international workshop in Würzburg, and we are happy that you, Honourable Mayor, have personally taken on the leadership of the delegation and are taking part in the official visit to your sister city, Hamburg.

I'd like to quote another Tanzanian proverb – but I think I'd better say it in English: “A single hand cannot slaughter a cow”. It is important for North and South, East and West to cooperate on the local level too, if we are to counteract the effects of climate change. The floods in Dar es Salaam in December 2011 are a

warning to us, and so are the recent rain floods in wide areas of Germany.

In the next few days you will discuss with experts from Hamburg what concrete measures can be taken in the context of the climate partnership between our cities. In school partnerships too, and in exchanges between students of journalism, there should always be some reference to how people are affected by climate change, and what can and should be done about it.

When we meet and talk here in the inner circle of the sister city partnership, our cooperation seems almost to go without saying. But when we look outside, we realize it's not easy to make a city partnership familiar and attractive to the general population of a big metropolis. The important thing is to find multipliers – in social organizations, in the educational system, and not least in the media.

Dar es Salaam City Council is already pursuing this course; in March it issued an invitation to a stakeholder conference, which attracted a large number of participants. For next year the Hamburg associations are planning a sister city conference with numerous guests from Dar es Salaam. With its cultural programme it aims to reach a broad section of the public in Hamburg.

One expression from your country has already become popular in our city; practically every child is familiar with “Hakúna Matáta” from the musical and film “The Lion King”. And if we can convey our partnership to our children in this spirit, we shall have done a lot for our common future.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Hamburg, and for all of us I’m expecting important new stimulus for our friendly cooperation. Thank you.