

Remarks by the High Commissioner at the ITEC Day event

Minister of Public Service Mgmt & Good Governance, Hon. Mr George Mkuchika

Dear ITEC Alumni

Ladies & gentlemen,

Namaskar, Good evening, Habari za jioni

Karibuni sana kwenye siku ya ITEC!

Today is the celebration of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme, instituted 54 years back to strengthen India's partnership with our brethren in the developing world even when India was taking step towards her own development. It reflects our spirit of sharing, our strong belief and commitment to South-South cooperation, and solidarity with our fellow developing countries on the march to development, growth and prosperity.

We are glad with the evolution and development of India's flagship ITEC Programme which now encapsulates about 300 capacity-building training courses annually focusing on our strengths in development, management, engineering, medicine, agriculture, administration, etc. It also covers deployment of Indian specialists abroad, feasibility studies and consultancy of projects, disaster relief, study tours and provision of equipment fully sponsored by the Government of India. ITEC is now a strong and growing pillar of our development cooperation with our partner countries.

Tanzania has been among the leading partners in ITEC programmes. In the last year, the number of trainees from Tanzania crossed 470 officials, experts and specialists in wide-ranging fields of human endeavour. Additionally, there are 24 scholarships for university degree courses, about 100 India-Africa Forum Summit courses and substantive number of defence training courses in India for Tanzanian nationals. In the last three years, ITEC trainees from Tanzania have grown from 273 to 474, a growth of 73% and within the last year, it increased by 35%.

May I mention a few new elements in our ITEC cooperation with Tanzania in the last year! First, we conducted specialized training courses exclusively for Tanzania in its field of interest - drug control & enforcement as well as societal applications of radiation technologies. Second, consistent with Tanzania's priority, we have added healthcare as a prominent sector; 19 Tanzanian doctors have got medical training in India in the last three months and Indian hospitals are visiting Muhimbili for joint seminars and surgeries in Tanzania. Third, on the recommendation of the Tanzanian Ministry of Energy, five Tanzanian specialists have joined Master's and doctorate courses in geology and coal geology at the leading Indian institute. Fourth, we have tried to link training with grant projects by laying special emphasis on the sectors of water, education, information technology, healthcare, energy and agriculture. In the last year, we have shared 130,000 senior secondary school books in Maths & Science,

established cancer treatment facility at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, and completed IT Centre at Nelson Mandela Institute in Arusha.

ITEC has emerged as a strong pillar of India Tanzania relationship and I am sure that this will develop further in the coming years. We are ready to fine-tune the ITEC and development partnership activities to meet Tanzania's interests and priorities, as we have tried in the last year or two.

Briefly, let me mention our significant achievements in the last year – first and foremost, the completion of a large water supply project from Ruvu river to Dar es Salaam city benefiting over 700,000 residents at a cost of TZS 220 billion. A distribution network to take this water to 400,000 more residents is now underway at the cost of TZS 90 billion. Another large water supply project by India to bring Lake Victoria water to Tabora, Nzega, Igunga and 89 villages en route is under construction at a cost of TZS 560 billion. We have committed further TZS 1.1 trillion for more projects in the water sector in Tanzania. Two weeks back, a new step has been taken in the field of solar power during the recent launch of International Solar Alliance Summit in Delhi; a Tanzanian project for solar power generation has been identified for support by India.

We are grateful that Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Mkuchika has spared time to celebrate ITEC Day with us today in recognition of its role and contribution to the partnership between India and Tanzania. I appreciate the cooperation of all the officials of the Ministry of Public Service Management and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania in our joint achievements in effecting ITEC programme successfully and fruitfully. My best wishes to all the beneficiaries of the programme.

Asanteni sana!

Dar es Salaam
23 March 2018