



CEO Roundtable of Tanzania

Ethical Leadership for Growth and Prosperity

PRESS RELEASE

Public Statement on the 1st Televised Presidential Aspirants Debate 8th June 2015

Dar es Salaam. 9th June, 2015

Early last month, the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania, a policy dialogue forum of Chief Executive Officers of companies operating their businesses in Tanzania, announced plans to stage a series of televised debates for aspirants who will be seeking nomination by their respective parties to run for the office of President of the United Republic of Tanzania during the October 2015 general elections.

Televised pre-election debates make it possible for political party caucuses to gain deeper insights into the individual aspirant's capabilities, temperament, leadership style and policy priorities if elected. Such insights allow for more informed party choices and ultimately more competent leaders in public offices.

As private sector stakeholders in Tanzania, as tax payers, as job creators and as citizens, we believe that we have the right and duty to engage our political leaders - both those currently in office and the ones seeking public office in the coming general elections - with the view to ensuring that improving the business environment in our country remains a top priority at all times. We believe also very strongly that this year's elections should be about maintaining and if possible increasing the pace of economic growth, upholding the highest standards of good governance and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, our efforts suffered a setback yesterday following the last minute withdrawal by 2 of the 3 confirmed debate participants. To be absolutely clear, the confirmed participants were Hon. January Makamba, Hon. Mwigulu Nchemba and Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, all from CCM. Their confirmations were received by our office in writing.

In the end however, it is only Ambassador Amina Salum Ali who turned up for the debate. We commend Ambassador Amina for her courage, wisdom and leadership.

Consequently, we could not proceed with the debate with only one participant on stage. We had no choice but to cancel the debate altogether.

On behalf of the leadership and members of the CEOrt, we offer our heartfelt apologies to the many people who came to the debate venue at the Hyatt Regency in Dar es Salaam, to the millions of viewers on TV, radio and internet, to our media partners and to our sponsors (Uongozi Institute).

Needless to say we are saddened and disappointed by what happened but we are by no means discouraged. We will proceed to make arrangements for the next debate for the

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UKAWA group on 18th June and the final pre-nomination debate for CCM aspirants on 25th June. We will work hard to make a success of them.

Each debate will have a maximum of 5 aspirants. The debate of 8th June will not be repeated but Ambassador Amina Salum Ali will be given another opportunity to debate her fellow aspirants during the CCM aspirants debate on 25th June 2015 subject to her availability.

We understand that changing our political culture and nurturing our nascent democracy is a process, not an event and as such, success will require persistence, hard work and patience.

We recognise this is merely the first step in a thousand miles journey, but we are determined and will keep working at it until we build a national consensus around the idea that the quality of a Tanzanian leader in the highest office of the land is measured among other things, by his/her ability to competently manage the economy, to create new jobs, is committed to improving the business environment, is dedicated to upholding good governance and the rule of law.

The CEO Roundtable of Tanzania will continue to work with the aspirants and their party leaders to make sure we avoid a repeat of yesterday's problem going forward.

Thank you

MANAGEMENT

CEO Roundtable of Tanzania

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