

# The Medical Association of Tanzania



## 1965-1985



The Medical Association of Tanzania

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**The Medical Association of Tanzania  
20 Years of Progress  
1965—1985**

Speeches presented on the occasion  
of the 20th Anniversary of the Medical  
Association of Tanzania  
18th—21st September 1985

Edited and compiled by  
Prof. P.M. Sarungi, President of MAT, 1985

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## PRELUDE

Talk of 20 years in respect of the life of a living creature or an institution and you will find this a very short span of time. However, consider 20 years in terms of events and activities and you will find that so much would have happened during this seemingly short period so as to change the life of that creature or an institution completely. This statement is very true of the Medical Association of Tanzania which attained its 20th year of life in September, 1985.

This Association arose out of fragmented Medical Associations or Societies representing different views and interests of certain groups of practitioners in the country. The twenty years was to see the cementing of these interests and fulfillment of the Association's targets as spelt out in its Constitution. This period proved to be as exciting, provocative as it was challenging and full of insurmountable problems.

This booklet will give you in depth, the history of this Association, emphasizing its achievements and failures and the problems which it has faced and continues to face to-day. As the 11th President of this Association, I feel honoured to write this Prelude during the commemoration of the Association's 20th Anniversary.

September, 1985  
P. M. Sarungi  
President of MAT

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*PROFESSOR BERNARD KIREI,  
THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA, AT THE 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAT AND THE 21ST  
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE*

The Honourable Prime Minister  
of the United Republic of Tanzania  
Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim,  
Distinguished Party and Government Leaders,  
Our Distinguished Guests from within  
the United Republic and from outside the country,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost I wish, on my behalf, and on behalf of the Medical Association of Tanzania, to welcome you all to this 21st Annual Scientific Conference. This is a unique occasion, for not only are we here to mark the 21st Annual Scientific Conference but also to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Medical Association of Tanzania with which it coincides.

Secondly, I would like to thank you, the honourable Prime Minister, for accepting the invitation to come and officially open this our 21st Annual Scientific Conference and the 20th Anniversary of the Medical Association. Similarly, it is my pleasure to thank all the distinguished party and government leaders for coming and grace the occasion for us this morning.

To the distinguished guests, particularly those from other medical associations, from across the borders and beyond, I would like to simply say how happy we are to have you here today. I also wish, on behalf of the Association, to thank all the guests and all the members of the Association for coming.

Lastly, if you will allow me, I would like to thank the Ministry of Health and all other employing authorities for allowing the members of the Association to attend this conference and for any material assistance which I trust on this occasion, like in most previous occasions have been generously given to our members.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, although you have come to witness the official opening of our Annual Scientific Conference, by his Honour, I would like to confess that actually this conference has been going on for the last four days. However, we thought it wiser not to call this pre-conference, conference, 'conference' but rather workshop. So then we had a

workshop on Plaster of Paris, Maternal and Child Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (including the new and the most dreaded addition, AIDS). We also had a symposium on drug abuse and alcoholism. These symposia have been a tremendous success. For that I wish to thank the organizers, our sponsors and the participants. At this stage I would like to inform our distinguished guests that whereas the Annual General Meeting which takes place this afternoon is only for members, the Annual Scientific Conference which will continue for two days, beginning to-morrow morning is open to everybody.

Your Honour, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. As you all know, to organize a conference of this nature demands a lot of effort, goodwill and sacrifice from the organizers and such sponsors as there may be. With your permission, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the conference organizers and all the sponsors who have so generously contributed to ensure that this occasion become a success. Much as I would like to mention each individual by name and thank him or her personally, I think there will be time and place for this. However, the Association would like to acknowledge the following for their substantial contribution:

- Air India, Dar es Salaam — Air ticket
- Air Tanzania Corporation — 2 Air tickets
- British Viggo, England — Chain of Office worthy \$ 1000
- Chas F. Thackray Ltd, Leeds, England — 1,000 MAT ties
- Ciba-Geigy Co. Ltd. Regional Office, Nairobi Kenya — Air ticket and Maintenance of one participant to Seminar from Nairobi
- Henkel Chemical (EA) Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 500 t-shirts
- Juthalal Velji Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 200 crates of soda + identity stickers
- Kibo Paper Industries Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 60,300/ = exam. workers
- Kioo Limited, Dar es Salaam - 5,000/ = from exam. of workers
- Macolin Exports Ltd., London — Programme folders
- Matsushita Electric Co. (EA) Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 5,000/ + Radio Cassette
- Metal Box Tanzania Ltd., Dar es Salaam - 15,000 / = donations
- Metal Products Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam - 45,000 / = exam. of workers
- Ministry of Health, Tanzania — 30,000/ = donation
- Ministry of Health, Zanzibar — Trip to Zanzibar
- Muhimbili Medical Centre, Dar es Salaam — 10,000/ + donation + Many services
- National Development Corporation, Dar es Salaam — Table electric cooker (4,500/ =)
- National Engineering Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 35,200 / = exam. of workers
- National Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Ltd., — 184,000 / = exam. of workers + Band
- National Milling Corporation, Dar es Salaam — 3,000/ = donations
- National Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 10,500/ = exam. of workers

- National Printing Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — offer of work to exam. workers
- National Shipping Agencies Co., Dar es Salaam — 166,800/ = exam. of workers
- National Urban Water Authority, Dar es Salaam — 27,800/ = exam. of workers
- Organon International B.V. Region IV, Holland — 10,000/ = donation
- Perma Sharp (T) Ltd., Dar es Salaam — offer of work to exam. workers
- Romeja's Limited, Dar es Salaam — Printing of Programme
- Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, Nairobi, Kenya — STD Symposium, 5,000/ = + cost of one participant
- Smith & Nephew Ltd., Hull, U.K.
- Tanzania Baby Food Manufacturing Col. Ltd — 10,000/ = donation
- Tanzania Breweries Ltd., Dar es Salaam — offer of work to examine workers
- Tanzania Electrical Supply Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — offer of work to exam. workers
- Tangold Products Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 14,000/ = examine of workers
- Tanzania Railway Corporation, Dar es Salaam — 5,000/ = + Trip to Mbeya
- Tanzania Shoe Co. Ltd., Dar es Salaam — offer of work to examin. workers
- Ubungo Farm Implements Ltd., Dar es Salaam — 66,580/ = exam. of workers
- Uganda Air Lines Corporation, Dar es Salaam — 2 air tickets
- Ames Col. Ltd. - donated 4,000/ =
- Henschel Co. Ltd. - donated 10,000/ =
- Jamana Printers — Printing of Identity cards
- Bank of Tanzania and National Bank of Commerce — Foreign exchange approval

Similarly on the part of the conference organizers, there is a name that certainly stands head and shoulders above all others. An individual without whom, believe me or not, this 20th Anniversary of the Medical Association would probably tick away like the clock on the wall without anyone paying much notice. This is a man endowed with an exceptional foresight, tremendous optimism and inexhaustible energy. They call him a power house in this part of town. It is through his effort that the Association now has a chain of office. To assist us in this celebrations today, and in all zonal conferences throughout the year a lot of funds are needed. His foresight, combined with charm and a touch of mellowed aggressiveness, has always brought in willing donors, by their members, to our assistance. It was only recently, he personally tackled, and literally rescued the Tanzania Medical Journal, the organ of the Medical Association from some unscrupulous tricksters. What he has achieved for the Association, through his own influence, effort devotion, pragmatism

and sacrifices is almost a legion. This individual, who I said stands head and shoulders, but in fact I should have said he stands bold head and shoulders above us in the organizing committee is not other than Professor Philemon Sarungi, the President of the Medical Association. Allow me therefore to thank him on behalf of the members of the Medical Association.

Lastly, your Honour, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say one or two things about the Medical Association.

When the organizing committee charged me with the responsibility of delving into the past and come out with a history of the Association, I accepted, not without much trepidation at first.

However, this was to turn out to be one of the most pleasurable tasks that any members of the committee could ever wish to have. For those of you will be seeing the conference right through to the dinner and dance you will have the opportunity of listening to this history in more detail.

At this time and place, suffices for me to say that on 21st September 1965 the Medical Association of Tanzania was formed, with Dr. Nhonoli as its first President. A month later, Dr. G.M. Daya who was then honourable secretary called an extra-ordinary committee meeting which vested power from the president. An Annual General Meeting held in September 1966 elected Dr. G.M. Daya president. Later the following were to be the presidents of the Association:

In 1967	Dr W.J. Makene
1968	Dr. D.N. Patel (late)
1969	Dr. M.B. Ngirwamungu (late)
1970—74	Dr. A.M. Mamujee
1975	Dr. G.A.S. Kombe
1976—77	Prof. J.K. Shija
1978—79	Prof. V.P. Kimati
1980—83	Prof. J.T. Karashani
1984—	Prof. P.M. Sarungi

Under these people the Association has flourished and grown from strength to strength. Today we have about 500 members. They cover a wide spectrum of the medical profession and public life. We have professors, surgeons, pathologists, psychiatrists and general practitioners.

Even in Parliament, your Honour, we have our men - I am sure you have seen them there. I don't come to Parliament myself but I am told they speak for us which is a good thing. Actually, two of our very active members have climbed up to become cabinet ministers. What does this mean? This means, your Honour, that right from inception, 20 years ago, the aims and aspirations of the Association have always been reconciled with the prevailing political, social and economic realities.

These aims and aspirations are clearly spelled out in the MAT constitution and they are as follows:

1. To promote medical and allied sciences, to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession and to support a high standard of medical ethics and conduct among its members.

2. To act as a representative body of the medical profession in Tanzania and to liaise with and advise the Government and Party on health and medical matters.
3. To ensure, maintain, and safeguard the interests, privileges and welfare of its members.
4. To maintain liaison by meetings, correspondence or otherwise with other medical associations and bodies throughout the world.

There is no doubt in my mind that the realization of these aspirations which the Association has so lavishly enjoyed has been largely due to that unique and characteristic, yet inexplicable Tanzanian spirit. The number of occasions we have been granted audience by his Excellency, the President to discuss matters of direct concern to the Association are many. As a matter of fact just within two years of the MAT being formed, Dr. W.J. Makene, on 22nd of May 1967 lead a delegation of MAT council members to Ikulu where among other things brought up to his Excellency was a request to grant the Medical Association a full recognition as the representative body of the medical profession in the country. That request was granted. Since then we have continued to meet or write to his Excellency whenever the Association deemed it necessary. Similarly your office, your Honour, has always maintained an open door to the Medical Association at all times. This is perhaps what the Tanzanian spirit is all about. For that we thank the Party and the Government for fostering this spirit.

The high respect and the confidence which the Association enjoys in this country, is to a large extent, attributable to the blessing and the cordial relationship that the Ministers of Health, one after another, have extended to the Association. All these Ministers, without exception have been our closest friends. At this point it is again my duty, as the Association's historian, to inform the members that one of our Ministers of Health is now the sole presidential candidate of the United Republic.

This is Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi who was Minister of Health from 1972 to 1976. During this time the Association was suddenly rejuvenated after a few years in which it seemed ineffective. It was on 26th July, 1975 when a delegation of the members of the newly-formed MAT executives met in Ndugu Mwinyi's office and it is reported that a lengthy discussion on matters affecting the medical profession as a whole, took place, and a memorandum was issued the following month. The Association looks back to this time in history with tremendous gratification. It is perhaps on the basis of these past memories, although it is by no means the only influencing factor, that the members of the Association unanimously support the name of Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi as the sole Presidential Candidate for the presidency of the United Republic of Tanzania. All the members of the Association will cast a Yes vote in his support.

With that, your Honour, I end by further asking your indulgence, to address the assembled guests and members of the Medical Association, if you may, and officially I open the 21st Annual Scientific Conference and the 20th Anniversary of the Medical Association of Tanzania.

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*THE PRIME MINISTER NDUGU SALIM AHMED  
SALIM TO THE 1985 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA*

The President of the Medical Association of Tanzania,  
Members,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be invited as the Guest of Honour at your 1985 Annual Conference in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Medical Association of Tanzania. I wish to convey my congratulations to all the members of the Medical Association of Tanzania, to the current President of the Association, Prof. Sarungi and his predecessors, and to all the medical doctors and health professionals for having reached this milestone in the growth and development of the medical profession in this country.

Mr. President, this is a fitting occasion for me, on behalf of the Government, to pay public tribute to doctors, dentists and allied medical experts and personnel. The Medical Community as a whole has acquitted itself with distinction in discharging its duties to the people of Tanzania. By and large doctors and other medical personnel have given service to those who need it with professional competence, devotion, dedication and self sacrifice. Indeed as the first place of the Union Government is about to end, among the country's undeniable achievements is the steady growth and quality of our medical service. We can all be truly proud of this achievement, particularly considering the difficult circumstances in which we all had to operate.

It has not been plain sailing. Like other areas of our development endeavour, the Health Sector could not be immune from the facts of life of an underdeveloped economy facing severe adverse internal and external constraints.

I wish to salute your fortitude in that under these trying circumstances the medical profession has refused to be overwhelmed or to become perennial complainants. Instead you have taken the situation as a challenge and intensified your efforts to do whatever was possible within the circumstances to attend and cure patients and to combat disease through preventive measures. No doubt this has been made possible due to a high sense of professional concern and national responsibility. The Party, Government and the whole community has a debt of gratitude to our doctors and other health professionals. The community has the duty to match your devotion, patriotism and sacrifice with moral and material support. The Government for its part will

continue to endeavour making greater efforts to ease your burden. For your job must not be made more difficult than it need be.

The Government is very much aware of the problems and hurdles confronting our doctors and their other colleagues in the medical profession. From time to time the Government has taken measures to overcome at least some of these problems.

Measures have also been taken to improve the material incentives. But obviously our ability to deal effectively with all the legitimate concerns of the medical profession will very much depend on the country's economic capacity. There is nonetheless no doubt that Government in accordance with the Party's policies will in the future continue to do its utmost to improve the overall conditions both in terms of facilities and equipment. For there is an obvious case for accepting the priority of the claim of the medical profession on national resources.

Mr. President, let me reiterate the obvious. Clearly the resources made available to the health sector and the medical profession are far from being adequate. But having said that let me also express my confidence that our doctors and the medical personnel in general do realize the limitations facing the Government in this respect. The medical profession is part and parcel of the Tanzanian community and as such it cannot completely escape the consequences and underdevelopment or of prevailing economic conditions in the country. Consequently, the medical profession has to temper its material expectations or demands with objective understanding of what can and what cannot be provided for in our current stage of development. This fact of inadequate resources poses a challenge to both the Government and the community on one hand and to those of you working in the health or medical sector, on the other. The challenge to the Government is to be constantly aware of the imperative of assisting the medical profession to acquire an adequate supply of equipment, drugs and physical facilities as well as providing wherever and whenever possible material incentives.

Mr. President, through its own resources and with the help of donor agencies, the Government has tried to provide transport to all hospitals and health centres in the country. It is the Government's intention to provide housing to doctors as near as possible to their working place. In 1981 the Government issued a directive on the housing of doctors, I urge all those concerned to implement that directive. The Government has recently also taken various measures to give priority to doctors in the allocation of vehicles and to increase their remuneration through the mechanism of responsibility and hardship allowances. It is open to the Medical Association of Tanzania to discuss the modalities of the application of all these motivational measures.

It should be clear that in improving the conditions of work of doctors and other medical personnel, the nation is not engaged in charity work or sectional generosity. This improvement is called for in the larger interests of the nation.

On its part, the medical profession has to rise to the great challenge before it as it has a great role to play in promoting health conditions in our country and eventually in the growth of our economy. Tanzania has always insisted that

investment in the health of the people is as important if not more important than investment in things. It is logical to argue that you stand a better chance to develop agriculture if the farmers are healthy.

Likewise you have a better chance to promote labour productivity in industry and in the service sectors if the workers enjoy good health or good health facilities.

The members of the Medical Association of Tanzania and all medical doctors and related professionals owe it to the country to be innovative in providing effective solutions to health problems in these difficult times. For let us not delude ourselves, despite our achievements we are still a backward country not only compared to developed and some of the developing countries, but more important compared to our health needs and situation.

Apart from curative duties, doctors can help to raise the health of the majority by increasing their initiatives in the area of preventive services, not only because 'prevention is better than cure' but often prevention is also cheaper than cure. I notice that in your programme you have included the important issues of nutrition, maternal and child health and immunization, which are some of the key components of preventive services.

Medicine is one of the noblest of professions. And most certainly doctors belong to one of the most respected professions. Your profession as doctors gives you great moral authority. Mr. President, I urge you to put this authority to influencing the public to adopt healthier living habits, in their diets, in their drinking habits and social relations in general. Doctors can use their moral authority, for instance in calling out loud and clear for a cleaner environment in our cities and around homes. Not only our surroundings be made clearer and healthier but also more scenic and attractive. Hospitals used to be surrounded by flower beds, shady trees, trimmed lawns and paved paths. Within the precincts of the hospitals one felt a healthy and invigorating atmosphere.

Regrettably, in some of our hospitals the surroundings have been allowed to deteriorate. You will agree with me that looking after hospital surroundings is not something beyond the country's means. Nor is it a matter of foreign exchange. The flowers and the trees and the grass are there for the planting. The birds to sing in the trees and the butterflies to dance on the grass are free. Happily, there are many encouraging exceptions to this picture of environmental neglect, in government as well as community and religious hospitals. I wish to single out the efforts being made right here at Muhimbili Medical Centre by Prof. Sarungi and his colleagues in making efforts to refurbish the surroundings of Muhimbili Medical Centre. It is a much more pleasant place to be now. Let me also say that in my tour of the regions I have also been highly impressed by the cleanliness and environmental care to be observed in the Mission Hospitals. The examples are many. But I can mention places like Ruby in Muleba district, Sengerema and Mkwajuni.

While on the theme of innovation and initiative I would urge the members of the medical profession to endeavour to constantly improve their knowledge and expertise. The Medical Association of Tanzania is one excellent vehicle for the exchange of information, research and techniques as is evident in your

programme of this annual conference. The interest of your country lies in developing a qualitative medical profession always up-to-date and never content with yesterday's level of medical knowledge.

Diseases do not respect national boundaries. Some diseases and ailments were considered to be the preserve of other countries. But not one holds a patent on particular disease as we increasingly come to realize. Since diseases are no respecters of boundaries, it is essential for you to work in an international context in order to exchange research knowledge, technique and other information, especially as our country can ill afford expensive research. Indeed, the truism of the inevitability of interdependence in our modern times is nowhere more relevant and more striking than in humanity's collective quest to combat disease and improve the lot of the human race.

Mr. President, you have a full agenda for discussions and celebrations in the next few days. I do not wish to take more of your time except to express the hope that you will have a fruitful discussion and an enjoyable time. Let me also congratulate you again on your Association reaching its 20th anniversary. You have had a great twenty years, and I am certain that you have a great future ahead of you. Lastly, I am left with the pleasant task of declaring the 1985 Annual Conference of the Medical Association of Tanzania open, which I hereby do.

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*PROFESSOR P.M. SARUNGI, THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF  
TAN ZANIA, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF MAT*

My Fellow Members!

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 21st General Meeting of the Medical Association of Tanzania. This is a very important occasion in the history of the Association because to-day we commemorate the 20th Anniversary of its birth.

On behalf of my fellow Council Members, I would like also to take opportunity to thank you all for your trust and honour which you bestowed on us by electing us into the highest positions in this Association. We do not deserve this honour nor do we claim to be more efficient or better administrators, innovators or creators of new thoughts than our predecessors.

But you all know as we do that election to this office does not depend on individual talent or gift, but on trust and respect that all the members have in us. Since our election on 21st September 1984, we do not claim to have accomplished the expectations of the members of this Association. We request our fellow members to bear with us for any shortcomings which we may have displayed and any inefficiency which may have prevented us from achieving the set goals.

However, I would like to highlight some of our attempts to accomplish some of our targets for the past year. This will enable you to judge us sympathetically and fairly. Before I do so, I have the pleasure to announce to you some personal achievements attained by some of our Council members. Since its election, three of the Council members were promoted to higher academic posts.

I would like to mention these members so that we may congratulate them as their high academic achievement audibly speaks of and has a bearing on their competence as office bearers in this Association. The three members are:

- Dr. B.R. Kirei, Vice-President of MAT who got promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery,
- Dr. S.Y. Maselle, the Hon. General Secretary of MAT who got promoted to Associate Professor of Bacteriology and Immunology,
- Dr. D. Mwakiyusa, a Council member of MAT who was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine.

These eminent members deserve our congratulations.

The major pre-occupation which faced the Council during the last twelve

months was to implement the Almanac for 1984/85 prepared in the Council's first meeting.

The Council also fulfilled most of the directives made by the General Annual Meeting of 1984. Among the most important issues implemented was a meeting with the Honourable Minister for Health Mr. A Chiduo which has already been reported on by the Honorary General Secretary.

The most important business concluded by the council during the year included:

The holding of five full council meetings that is the 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd and one extra-ordinary meeting.

- 1) At the 69th full Council Meeting, held in Dar es Salaam, issues discussed included ways and means for raising funds for the Association's 20th Anniversary Celebrations.
- 2) The 70th full Council Meeting was held on 23rd February, 1985 at Mbeya. The purpose of this meeting was to activate the zonal branches. During this meeting 12 high quality scientific papers were presented by zonal members and visiting councillors. The meeting was also honoured by the presence of Prof. Wilson, a visiting professor of Orthopaedic Surgery from Stanmore Hospital, London. A fund-raising activity organized during this meeting enabled the association to raise 4000/= on the spot. Credit goes to the Mbeya residents who turned up in full to attend the dinner dance.

Our thanks also go to:

- Dr. K.N.M. Mtera, the Mbeya Zonal Chairman who with his colleagues gave members of MAT a very warm reception, and for their superb organization of the conference.
- We also heartily express our gratitude to the General Manager of the Tanzania Railways Corporation, Ndugu Tom Mmari who generously made the meeting possible by offering the Dar es Salaam Members of the Council who attended this meeting full board accommodation at the Corporation's Hotels in Iringa and Mbeya.
- 3) On 19th May, 1985 the 71st Council Meeting was held at the Bwawani Hotel Zanzibar through the generosity of the Zanzibar Minister for Health who bore the full cost of full board accommodation of the members of the Council from Dar es Salaam. The Association also extends its gratitude to the Director of the Tanzania Baby Food Manufacturing Company, Ndugu Mkono for his company's support in meeting the full cost of air passages for the MAT Councillors from Dar es Salaam.

Two high standard papers on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Malignancy of the Urinary Tract were presented by Prof. S.Y. Maselle and Prof. B.R. Kirei respectively.

While in Zanzibar the Councillors were also lucky to pay a Courtesy call on the Zanzibar Chief Minister, the Honourable Seif Shariff Hamad at Chwaka Government Guest House. The Chief Minister requested the Association to give more support to the doctors and other health workers in Zanzibar and Pemba by frequently holding such meetings in the Isles. He

fully supported the Council's plans to open a new zone in Zanzibar and Pemba. He pledged to assist the Council with any problem within his capacity. Two other council meetings were held in Dar es Salaam to discuss the organization of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations. One of these council meetings had been scheduled to be held in Morogoro, but owing to communication problems the venue had to be changed to Dar es Salaam. When I was elected as the President of the Medical Association of Tanzania, I did not make any promises of miracles neither did I make excuses. One thing I was however sure of right from the beginning was that the new Council would closely follow the Association's objectives in the spirit of team work, and dedication spear-headed by courage of conviction, unity and tolerance. If members are satisfied that we have during the past year upheld the Association's principles, then to-day we stand consolidated.

But if on the other hand we had any short-comings, then we solemnly pledge to rectify our mistakes and do better in the second year of our term.

Our aim when we made the decision to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Association was three-fold.

- 1) We wanted to focus attention on the tremendous achievements which we have realized in service, research and education during the last 20 years of the existence of our Association.
- 2) We wanted to focus public attention on the problems facing us. These problems are widely spoken of by everybody in Tanzania. Without making excuses we felt that the public should understand the causes of our short-comings in implementing our nations health targets.
- 3) Above all we wanted to reconcile ourselves to our failures and achievements, so that history may judge how bad or how good we fared since the birth of our Association.

The preparation for this celebration was the hardest task that faced the Association's Councillors. I will leave it to the Treasurer to go into the details of techniques and approaches which the Council had to use. Invitation to attend our Association's 20th Anniversary has been extended to over thirty sister associations from countries friendly to Tanzania. Some of those who have responded to this and sent us greetings, congratulations and best wishes include: The American Medical Association, The British Medical Association, The Irish Medical Association, The Danish Medical Association and last but not least the brotherly Lesotho Medical Association.

I am sure that you would all want to join me in registering our happiness and gratitude for their kind remembrance of us and moral support for us at this time.

Those who expressed their solidarity through their willingness to physically attend our celebrations include:

- Prof. Ope Adenkule, the General Secretary of the Confederation of African Medical Associations and Societies (CAMAS),
- Dr. Addel Fattah M. Shawki, the General Secretary of the Egyptian Medical Syndicate,



Professor P. M. Sarungi, the President of the Medical Association of Tanzania being bestowed the Chain of Office by professor J. Karashani, the Past President.



Professor P. M. Sarungi with professor Maselle, the Secretary of MAT, and Dr C. Mgone.



Hon. Prime Minister Salim A. Salim receiving MAT's gifts from the President of MAT.

Hon. Prime Minister admiring MAT's Certificate with professor B. Kirei, the Vice President of MAT, and professor Maselle, the Secretary of MAT.

Mr. Salim A. Salim, the Prime Minister of Tanzania, is opening the Annual General Meeting on the 18th of September, 1985.



- Dr. Peter Chimimba who is a Council Member of the Medical Association of Malawi and also the Business Manager of the Malawi Quarterly Journal.
- The highly powered delegation of the Kenya Medical Association which includes its President Prof. N. Mbwibo who is also the Principal of the Kenyatta Medical College and Dr. Joseph A. Oluoch who is the Assistant Secretary of the Kenya Medical Association.

All these good wishes and willingness of the sister organizations to join us at this time shows in what regard our Association is held to-day. All members and leaders of MAT, from 1965 to 1985 deserve credit for this as it has arisen out of their tireless dedication in ensuring that our Association gets a firm place in the world map. It is through their sweat that they have obtained MAT's full membership to the Commonwealth Medical Association, and the Confederation of African Medical Associations and Societies.

The Medical Association of Tanzania received a number of invitations to attend various international meetings. It is the intention of the leaders of the Association to send its members to as many of these meetings as possible. So far, this intention has not been satisfactorily fulfilled owing to financial constraints. However, the Association hopes to handle this matter more aggressively in the future. During the last twelve months, members attended the International Hospital Federation's Regional Conference held in Nairobi, a Committee meeting of the Medical Education in East Africa which was held in Arusha and a Commonwealth Conference on General Practice and Family Medicine held in New Delhi. It is hoped that members will also be sent to attend the WHO/CAMAS Congress and Workshop to be held in the Benin Republic. Changes were made during the year in the Editorial Board of the Association's Medical Journal. These changes were geared towards improvement of the regularity of the publication of this journal. The Editor will report on the full details of what transpired.

Dear Colleagues, I would like once again to thank you for the co-operation you extended to us. However, as we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary, we should use this chance to rededicate ourselves to fulfilling the objectives of our Association. We should rededicate ourselves to upholding the highest standard of our profession and adhering to the medical ethics. We should rededicate ourselves in aiming to the highest medical performance to our people. We should rededicate ourselves to learning new things and updating our knowledge in order to stimulate new ideas amongst ourselves and our colleagues all over the world. We should rededicate ourselves to maintaining unity and love among ourselves. We should rededicate ourselves to upholding tolerance which should surpass our emotions and personal prejudice towards each other or the public in general. We should rededicate ourselves to learning to forgive those who have wronged us because to know all is to forgive all. Lastly but not least, we should rededicate ourselves to being doctors of the highest quality, morale, character, and patience. Let us do all this in the uplifting of our profession and our nation.

Let us move forward and move fast because life is movement.

LONG LIVE MAT!

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## *PROFESSOR P.M. SARUNGI, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA, AT THE ANNUAL DINNER PARTY*

Guest of Honour, The Honourable Paul Bomani, Minister of Lands, Tourism and Natural Resources,  
Madam Bomani,  
Invited Guests,  
Members of the Medical Association of Tanzania,  
Colleagues,  
Friends,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Before I proceed further with my speech, I would like, on behalf of the Medical Association of Tanzania and on behalf of my fellow Council Members, to request our Guests who have been with us from the beginning of our activities and those who have joined us for this night entertainment a favour. That is if during our low moments, whether in words, deeds, or attitude, through our error of temper, tastes or tones we have in any way caused any one of you pain in your hearts, discomfort or fear, please be assured that that was not our intention and not our truest self. For this we ask for you pardon and ask you to bear with us since we all are human beings trying to do our best against immense odds.

As the 11th President of the Medical Association of Tanzania I do not deserve an honour, neither do I have the right to claim myself to be the Maharajah of the Medical Association of Tanzania, achievements including the 20th Anniversary implementations and fulfilments. Neither do I deserve any commendable appreciation in words or letters for what our Association has achieved during the past 20 years. My fellow Members of the Association and Medical Colleagues will join me in their honest proclamation that I have no leadership quality which is more outstanding compared to that of the previous Presidents. But I believe that through our unity and dedication to both our profession and our Nation, we have been able to forge ahead. The success of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations and the 21st Annual Scientific Conference has come about through unified efforts of all the members of the Council and Conference Organizing Committee Members. May I take the liberty on behalf of the Association Members to introduce my command in arms first starting with Council Members and later with the organizing Committee Members.

Honourable Minister, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight, I

By the end of the First World War the Germans had erected thirteen hospitals, one sanatorium, one mental hospital, and confined 3000 leprosy victims in various segregated camps. They established a laboratory for manufacturing (producing) vaccines, built a central laboratory for malaria research, founded a biological institute which later became the Malaria and Vector-Borne Diseases Institute, and with collaboration of their counterparts, their fellow local healers, introduced Quinine as a drug for treatment of malaria. We close the German chapter.

The British took over from the Germans as the Colonial Masters of Tanganyika by transfer of administrative power in 1919. They inherited 1200 hospital beds of which 86 were for mental patients. They inherited an urban Public Health Service which was in chaos as a result of war. They had to reckon with lack of communications, shortage of nursing staff, wornout hospital buildings, shortage of sanitary inspectors, lack of working drainage system, derelict military camps, full of military junk, which became breeding places for mosquitos and other pests, health stations with no personnel and lack of public health workers. During the British administration one notable British Medical Officer who deserves mention today was John Owen Shircore, who did his best in this formidable situation. He introduced a training scheme for dressers and rural sanitary inspectors. He constructed a number of new hospitals and formed the special unit for the control of yaws, sleeping sickness, tuberculosis and malaria.

In 1924 the British launched the training of African dispensers who were later to be known as medical assistants. In the same year maternal child health clinics were established. In 1930 the training of laboratory technicians was launched and in the same year it was made compulsory for the school boys and girls to learn health as a subject. In 1940 training of nurses and midwives was started as well as a three years course in chemical analysis training. Nurses courses in Mbeya and health inspectors course in Kongwa were established. In 1953 the Nurses and Midwives Council was inaugurated and in 1956 the Tanganyika Training Board came into being. This brings us to the time of culmination of the independence struggle. The Medical Services at independence consisted of 98 hospitals containing 11,000 beds of which 40 % belonged to voluntary agencies. The colonial central Government was employing 6000 medical personnel of these, only 14 were medical officers of Tanganyika origin.

May 1 at this point call upon all members of the Medical Association of Tanzania and our invited guests to join me tonight in thinking of and thanking our flag bearers in the Medical Services of this country. It is sad, yet a happy moment for me to mention all the Tanganyika medical officers who qualified before independence, and worked unselfishly under difficult conditions for the pride, dignity and benefit of our brothers and sisters. It is a sad moment because some of them are no longer with us. It is a joyous moment because the majority of them are still with us, employed in the Medical Services of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Tanganyika Medical Officers who qualified before independence were:

Name	Year of appointment
1. Dr. Joseph R. Mtahangarwa	1940
2. Dr. Paul Pim Ibrack	1941
3. Dr. Raymond Kafamba	1942 +
4. Dr. E. F. Mwaiesela	1943 +
5. Dr. C. V. Mtawali	1943 +
6. Dr. W. B. Mwanjisi	1946
7. Dr. N. B. Akim	1947
8. Dr. V. Kyaruzi	1948
9. Dr. L. Tsere	1948
10. Dr. Lyatuu	1949
11. Dr. W. K. Chaguala	1951
12. Dr. M. Lugazzia	1952 +
13. Dr. A. M. Nhonoli	1954
14. Dr. J. J. Omari	1955
15. Dr. P. N. Mwanukuzi	1956
16. Dr. S. A. Mwankemwa	1957
17. Dr. V. M. Eyakuze	1959
18. Dr. P. A. Kasambala	1959 +
19. Dr. A. P. Bulango	1959
20. Dr. W. J. Makene	1960
21. Dr. S. E. Temu	1960
22. Dr. A. D. Chiduo	1961
23. Dr. M. B. Ngirwamungu	1961 +

Immediately after independence, the following doctors qualified:

1. Dr. Tito Andrew Mziray	1962
2. Dr. Jesse Maeda	1962
3. Dr. D. Millinga	1962
4. Dr. Hussein Omari Lweno	1963
5. Dr. A. C. Kasambala	1963 +

How then did the Medical Association of Tanganyika/Tanzania come into being? Before independence the interests of the doctors in Tanganyika were represented by three Medical Societies, namely:

- 1) The British Medical Council (Tanganyika Branch)
- 2) The Tanganyika Medical Society
- 3) The Asian Medical Practitioners Association

The fact that these three societies existed is an indication of the early awareness that the medical personnel in this country had of the need to co-ordinate their ideas and have a concerted forum for exchange of ideas and exposure of their problems. A brief look at the operation of these societies would be useful to us today.

The British Medical Council (Tanganyika Branch) was formed in 1932. In the same year, during an inter-colonial meeting in Nairobi, it was decided that the Tanganyika Branch host an inter-colonial medical meeting in January 1934. Topics to be discussed included:

- 1) Tuberculosis among Africans
- 2) The African diet
- 3) The tropical ulcer
- 4) The tropical neurosthemia (AIDS)

Ten countries had been invited to attend but the only four who responded were:

Uganda

represented by Dr. Hennessy, Director of Medical and Sanitation Services,

Kenya

represented by Drs Sequeira and Gordon, both Kenyan Directors of Medical and Sanitation Services,

Zanzibar

represented by Drs Watkin, Pitchford and Welah from Directorate of Medical and Sanitation Services,

Cape-Town

(South Africa) was represented by Drs Moffat and Murray, both Directors of Medical and Sanitation Services.

Tanganyika's representatives included:

Dr. Adams (Hon. Secretary)  
 Dr. Clard  
 Dr. Chirlton  
 Dr. Graham and  
 Dr. Mackenzie

The Tanganyika Medical Society was formed in 1935 and the Asian Medical Practitioners Association was formed in 1949. On 27th April, 1957 the Asian Medical Practitioners Association held its election and elected the following office bearers:

1) Dr. S.N. Malik O.B.E.	President
2) Dr. D.N. Patel M.O.	Vice President
3) Dr. T.M. Joseph L.M.S.S.A. (E.A)	Hon. Secretary
4) Dr. J.J. Pai M.B.B.S. (Bombay)	Treasurer

On 26th February, 1959, the Tanganyika Medical Society held its election and those elected included:

1) Dr. Q. Khan	President
2) Dr. (Mrs) Khan	Vice President
3) Dr. Jam Mohamed	Secretary
4) Dr. A. Kanji	Treasurer

Committee members were:

Dr. A.N. Patel  
 Dr. D.S.M. Shah

By the time of independence, however, only the British Medical Council (Tanganyika Branch) was still in existence. Where did the other two Societies vanish? I leave this for the next generation to dig out! Today we salute our fore-runners upon whose success the Medical Services in the present Tanzania was built. Let us always remember and appreciate their struggle. It is a symbol of greatness to give honest and sincere appreciation where it belongs.

On 5th January, 1962, less than one month after independence, the Tanganyika Medical Association was born. On 22nd of the same month, it was registered. During its first election, the following people were elected office bearers:

1) Dr. A.M. O'Hara	President
2) Dr. V. Shuppler	Vice President
3) Dr. J.A. Singh	Secretary
4) Dr. C.M. Daya	Treasurer

The Council members included:

1) Dr. A. Moore	Pathologist
2) Dr. V. Eyakuze	
3) Dr. A. Kanji	

On 21st September, 1965 another election was held in which the following were elected:

1) Dr. A. Nhonoli	President
2) Dr. Birch	Vice President
3) Dr. G.M. Daya	Secretary
4) Dr. Dalal	Treasurer

The Council members were:

- 1) Dr. V. Eyakuze
- 2) Dr. D.N. Patel
- 3) Dr. P. Grech

The new Council did not, however, last long. One month after being elected, its Secretary Dr. G.M. Daya staged a Coup d'état. He summoned an extraordinary meeting of the Association, had the Council dissolved and replaced by an ad hoc Committee led by Dr. Daya himself as the Care-taker President. When informing the Association's bankers, the Barclay's Bank of Dar es Salaam, of this dissolution, the Care-taker President had this to say:

"It seemed that the activities of the Association, which has been existing

without a proper council elected every year, had completely ceased!"

This letter was also copied to the Registrar of Societies, Ministry of Home Affairs.

On 4th March 1965, the Care-taker Council held a meeting in the Red Cross Headquarters attended by 26 members. This meeting agreed to wind up all the activities of the Tanganyika Medical Association, and form instead the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT). In the Association's next general meeting held in September 1966, Dr. G.M. Daya was elected its President. But since he became President by staging a Coup, honesty impels me to declare Dr. A.M. Nhonoli as the first President of MAT de facto.

The full list of the Presidents of this Association since then reads as follows:

1. Dr. A.M. Nhonoli	1965
2. Dr. G.M. Daya	1966
3. Dr. W.J. Makene	1967
4. Dr. D.N. Patel	1968 +
5. Dr. M.B. Ngirwamungu	1969 +
6. Dr. A.M. Mamujee	1970—1974
7. Dr. G.S.A. Kombe	1975
8. Dr. J.K. Shija	1976—1977
9. Dr. V.P. Kimati	1978—1979
10. Dr. J.T. Karashani	1980—1983
11. Dr. P.M. Sarungi	1984

What is seen of today's Medical Association of Tanzania is a transformation from fragmented and shaky societies which represented isolated groups of medical practitioners with different interests to a Unitary National and Professional Association with common destiny and interest geared for formulating, implementing, improving and disseminating information on medical science in the country. Our membership has grown from 26 members to 500. Through its annual scientific conferences, MAT members have presented 531 scientific papers of recognized standard. This year 33 scientific papers ranging from "An Outbreak of Spastic Paraplegia in Tarime District" to "Problems of Nursing Dermatological Patients in Muhimbili Medical Centre" were presented. Through the Medical Association of Tanzania, alone or in collaboration with other Societies or International Organizations, eight seminars and Workshops have been conducted. Five of these seminars have been conducted this year as part of the 20th Anniversary Commemoration. These include: (1) Orthopaedic Workshops on Plaster of Paris Techniques, conducted in collaboration with MS Smith and Nephew, the first of its kind to be conducted in the country. Certificates of participation were issued. (2) Seminar on MCH featuring child survival in East Africa. The representative and expert from Nairobi, who is also the Principal of Medical College and authority on paediatric problems in our contemporary Africa, Prof. Bwibo, highlighted on some problems of child survival in East Africa. (3) Symposium on Sexually Transmitted Diseases with AIDS as high priority was discussed aggressively and sympathetically. (4) Symposium on Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Abuse was jointly conducted by

MAT, Psychiatric department, Finnish Temperance Society and CCM. We are grateful to Mrs Mongela, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and head of the Secretariate on Social Services for this. Topics discussed included:

- Alcoholic Mask by Prof. Neki
- Managing the Alcoholic and Identification of the Alcoholic.

The Medical Association of Tanzania has become the first Tanzanian professional body to reckon within and outside Tanzania. Its members have achieved the highest medical recognition within and outside Tanzania. Their contribution towards the progress of global medical services and research cannot be ignored. The Medical Association of Tanzania has played its part as an important medical body through international forums. Its members are either high ranking consultants in various international institutions, organizations and confederations or members/fellows of various associations, colleges or societies. The Medical Association of Tanzania is a member of the Commonwealth Medical Association, member of the Confederation of African Medical Society (CAMAS). It also has links with many other Medical Associations including:

- The British Medical Association
- The American Medical Association
- The Indian Medical Association
- The Hong Kong Medical Association
- The Singapore Medical Association
- The Danish Medical Association
- The Irish Medical Association
- All African Medical Associations

It is a twin brother to the Kenyan Medical Association. Members of the Medical Association of Tanzania participate fully in all National Commitments. In 1979 they proved their commitment to the defence of this country by actively participating in Kagera War and winning the highest accords for their brilliant performance during that war.

The Medical Association of Tanzania was born in great agony, underwent ravaging neonatal infections, malnourishment, including professional and literary anemia. Despite all this, it survived, and grew into full maturity producing children who have proved healthier than the parents. Its first child is the Tanzania Association of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, followed by the Association of Paediatrics, and others, namely:

- Tanzania Public Health Association
- Tanzania Dental Association
- Tanzania Diabetic Association, and last but not least the newly formed
- Tanzania Heart Foundation

These are not minor achievements — *Kweli tumetoka mbali sana*. Yet the Association continues to be faced with formidable problems of diverse dimensions. Despite our poor and shaky take-off-background at independence, our

nation through our beloved, brilliant, dedicated and committed leader, the true son of Tanzania and Africa, who is also our CCM Chairman and first President, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, has been able to achieve admirable, commendable and internationally recognized medical standing.

Straightaway after independence, our President declared the war against poverty, ignorance and disease. During independence, the President had this message for the medical personnel, and I quote, "Our new nation of Tanganyika comes into existence dedicated to fight a war, a war against poverty, ignorance and disease. For accidental reasons of geography and climate, tropical diseases are widespread. They sap the strength of the people and weaken their ability to play a full part in the struggle. The campaign which has to be waged against these diseases, through both curative and preventive measures, is one which requires constant diligence and devotion to duty from all members of the medical profession and from other health workers. Tanganyika's great health needs are very far from being met and the financial difficulties we experience means that all development plans are more restricted than the Government would like. But the fact that there is a medical service, the fact that there are demands for greater service, and the present willingness on the part of the people to participate in this work, all of this is due in no small measure to medical workers of earlier years."

This was to be the blue print for our Medical Health Services. Since this declaration of war against disease was made by our President twenty-four years ago, we have taken giant forward leaps in the field of medical services.

We started with 98 hospitals, today we are boasting 149 hospitals. We started with 22 health centres, today we have 239 health centres. We had 975 dispensaries, today we have 2644. We started with the doctor/population ratio of 1/830,000, today we are proud to be talking of a doctor/population ratio of 1/26,000. Before independence, 225 out of every 1000 infants died at birth, we have been able to reduce this death rate to 137 out of 1000. Of course, this rate is still far from satisfactory, but it cannot be compared to our starting point which was appalling. The Medical Association has contributed in many ways towards fulfilling our President's call.

The barometer for our achievement is our past history. It is by looking at this and noting where we went wrong and where we excelled that will give us good guidance in facing the future with courage and conviction, well prepared to meet any eventuality. The future looks bleak due to the enormous task ahead which is to realize our goal of Health for all by the year 2000. Our doctors are facing a lot of handicaps in the execution of their duties. They are facing serious transportation difficulties, some have to use tipper lorries so as to reach the hospital. Accommodation is another major problem facing most of our members both in the Regions and Districts. Doctors have to face the frustration of working without proper tools, always alert on how they have to improvise and ensure that service continues. Doctors have to work under conditions of severe drug shortage. These are not minor problems. Despite all these, our doctors have been able to perform their duties selflessly without show of

frustration or disturbance. Day and night they have performed their duties according to the party directives and saved lives of our people.

As the President of this country said in his farewell speech to Parliament, "Our doctors and nurses also deserve a very big tribute. We have first class doctors and nurses working in this country. They have been working, and continue to work, under very difficult conditions. .... The medical staff make the maximum efforts within the constraints which confront them, the country must continue to give them the maximum possible support."

The pay of our doctors needs to be looked into critically and sympathetically despite the recently introduced inducement or incentive scheme. Part of the Hippocratic Oath calls for this I quote: "For Physician it is undoubtedly an important recommendation to be of good appearance and wellfed, since people take the view that those who do not know how to look after their own bodies are in no position to look after others."

Do our doctors have the buying powers to look after their bodies as required?

To our doctors I will say that let us rededicate ourselves to facing a new future. Let us uphold the Hippocratic Oath. Let us solemnly pledge ourselves to sacrifice our lives to the service of our country and people. Let us speak like doctors, think like doctors, behave like doctors, walk like doctors, eat like doctors, dress like doctors and, above all, let us practise our profession with conscience and dignity. Let us be generous, for if we are so contemptibly selfish that we cannot radiate a little happiness and pass on a bit of honest appreciation without trying to get rewards out of the other person, if our souls are no longer bigger than our crab apples, we shall meet with the failures that such self-seekers so richly deserve. We have to have a feeling that glows and sings in our memories long after the incident is passed. The only way to achieve this is to render excellent services to the patient, a fellow human being as expected without expecting anything in return. This is the law of human conduct. Philosophers have speculated on this law for years immemorial. Zoroaster taught it to his fire worshippers in Persia three thousand years ago. Jesus summed it up in one thought, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you". CCM preaches it daily. "All men are my brothers and sisters!" Let us always remember that our uttermost goal is to achieve the highest medical standard.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you all great success as you return to your stations. My speech would be unaccomplished without analysis of success. Success is the way you will walk the paths of life each day. Success is in the little things you do and the things you say.

Success is not getting rich or rising high to fame. Success is not alone in winning goals which all men hope to claim. Success is being big in heart and clean and broad of mind. Success is being faithful to your country, friends and to the stranger kind.

Success is in the children whom you love and they learn from you.  
Success will depend on your character and everything you do.

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*THE HON. MINISTER FOR LANDS, NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND TOURISM TO THE MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA  
AT THE ANNUAL DINNER PARTY*

I would like to thank the Medical Association of Tanzania for giving me this honour to officiate at this year's annual Dinner/Dance. For a long time since 1970s I have been associated with your Association but this is my first time to join you in your Annual Dinner/Dance.

I know that you have had a very busy programme over the last nine days which included well-organized symposia, workshop and scientific sessions during which good quality scientific papers were presented. All this was part of your celebrations for the Association's 20th Anniversary. I must acknowledge that despite many difficulties, MAT has been able to celebrate its 20th Anniversary with a very high standard. The programme was well organized and of international quality.

Over the years, I have been following your Association's activities through the mass media, especially as regards dissemination of medical information on epidemics of disease like cholera and AIDS. This confirms that MAT has been fulfilling its objectives to the nation.

The problems of your members are well known to the party, Government and all Tanzanians in general. Party and Government will take appropriate measures whenever possible to solve some of your problems within the country's limited resources.

As an observer, it appears that MAT has been very active in the recent past. You now have a chain of office which is a symbol of an active Association. I would like to advise you to strengthen the existing Zonal Branches of your Association by holding council meetings and scientific sessions at the Branches instead of holding them in Dar es Salaam only. If possible, you could consider the possibility of holding a few Annual Conferences at the zones. I know this may require a lot of money to organize but where there is a will, there is a way. My Ministry will give sympathetic consideration and support for your Association without necessarily causing damage to the Tanzania Tourist Corporation.

I know Dinner time is not appropriate for making speeches. So, with these few remarks, I would like to thank you again for inviting me, and for those delegates who have come from outside Dar es Salaam and Tanzania, I wish you all happy journeys back to your stations of work.

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*EPILOGUE*

The accomplishments of the Medical Association over the last twenty years may not be exactly staggering. However, it can modestly be stated that the Association has had a great twenty years. Looking through the retroscope, as it were, it is immensely gratifying to see all that the Association has achieved, through its various activities, for its members, in particular, and the community in general. For its members it has fostered and achieved cohesion and unity. It has sought and achieved more congenial working conditions and privileges for its members. Taking into account the prevailing social and economic realities, the members of the Association have been happy and content at this modest achievement.

For the community, the Association takes credit for being the vanguard in tackling all health matters, ranging from epidemics of major national concern, to health education in the villages. But that is not all. The objectives and the aims of the Association are not only compatible with the people's aspirations but in fact reflect those aspirations. The Association is made up of individual doctors. The position of a doctor in society is quite a peculiar one. On one hand he is a subject of great scrutiny, and criticism should his ways show the slightest slip, and on the other he commands considerable influence and respect. Since it takes these individual doctors to make up the Association it is logical to conclude that what is expected of these individuals is indeed exactly what the community expects from the Association. The Association has the temerity to say it has lived up to these expectations.

If we now put aside the retroscope and look through the horoscope I foresee a great future for the Association. More and more doctors are joining us. The membership now stands about 500 strong. By the year 2000, the membership may very well approach the 1000 mark. It is not, however, the sheer numbers that really count much. It is rather the quality and the commitment of those members that count. The response, enthusiasm and devotion that greeted the twentieth anniversary celebrations bear testimony to the future ahead. All that will be needed is a reasonably good and able leadership to harness and not waste this potential. Therefore the members of Association must continue to take some trouble to ensure that only committed and devoted members are elected to the leadership.

Regarding future development and expansion I would like to start by stating that the Association has had to wait for twenty years to have a viable medical journal. The idea of having a journal is not a new one. The need for it has been obvious as way back as in 1979. After several abortive attempts at producing the journal the dream eventually came true with the twentieth anniversary of the Association. And now, that the Tanzania Medical Journal is once again alive and kicking we must keep it that way. It is the duty of every member to support and ensure the continued viability of this journal. If we direct our best literary efforts in its support, this journal will very soon take its rightful place in the international medical periodical shelves.

Finally, the Association will need to streamline its Zonal Branches. Some of these branches are so dormant and moribund that they can correctly be considered more dead than alive. There is a need to plan, organize and review the whole set up accordingly.

Indeed, there is a need just now to re-consider the very criteria for mapping out the zones. Be that as it may, I see a time when these zonal branches will be a more viable entity with a larger and more committed membership than is the case at present. So far the participation of our brethren from the Island has not been all that encouraging. However, following a visit to the Island in May 1985 when a full council meeting was held at V.I. Lenin hospital, and the response by the local doctors I can see a bright future for the Association over there. Perhaps given a couple of years and a more coherent rapprochement from the Association there will be active zonal branches in both Zanzibar and Pemba.

I see a future where the Association has a fully-fledged secretariat, executive offices and all the paraphernalia that go with it. And why not? After all our roots go back to the British Medical Association, Tanganyika Branch. That is of course more than 20 years ago. If our big brothers the British Medical Association can do it in London, the Medical Association of Tanzania can do it in Dar es Salaam.

Bernard Kirei, F.R.C.S.  
Vice-President of MAT

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YOUR  
PARTNER  
WORLDWIDE

**swissair** 

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