



BY RT. HON. MARGARET N. ZZIWA – SPEAKER, EALA

I wish to express my regrets and heartfelt condolences to H.E. President Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the citizens of the country, following the sea tragedy that occurred yesterday near Zanzibar.

It is with deep regret that I and the Members of the Assembly have learned of the capsizing of the ferry christened, MV Skagit, in Pungume area, near Chumbe islet in Zanzibar, that led to deaths of over 30 persons. Several casualties have been reported while others are still missing.

EALA is saddened by the tragedy and joins the people of the United Republic of Tanzania in mourning. The Assembly condoles with the families and relatives of those who lost their loved ones and prays to Almighty God that they shall find true comfort during this period of grief. We thank God for saving lives and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured so that they may soon re-join their families and continue with the day to day activities of building the nation and the East African Community at large.

It is disheartening that the sea accident has taken place less than a year after a similar tragedy befell the region following the capsizing of another Ship, MV Spice Islander, off the coast of Zanzibar, leading to deaths and casualties.

I note with appreciation the steps already taken so far by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in rescue efforts and for the assurances that such operations would continue to retrieve bodies still trapped inside the capsized ship. I appeal to the people of the United Republic of Tanzania to be calm during this period as rescue efforts continue.

I wish to assure the Head of State and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania of our support and solidarity as an Assembly.

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