

Egypt and Tanzania: 53 years, of Mutual Cooperation

for Peace and Development

Nasser and Nyerere Established the Relations Bases. El-Sisi and

Magufuli Lead Take off to the Future

Egypt and Tanzania have close historical relations. The two countries in 2014 celebrated the 50th anniversary of establishing the diplomatic bilateral relations, when Salem Ahmed Salem former secretary-general of Organization of African Unity became the first Tanzanian ambassador in Egypt in 1964 after the unity between Tanganyika and Zanzibar

In accordance with the Tanzania Foreign Ministry and Cooperation with East Africa's Statement, The State Information Service (SIS) report monitors that President Abdel-Fatah El-Sisi's visit to Tanzania aims to enhance and strengthen the diplomatic and social bilateral relations as well as providing the chance for the two leaders to discuss various issues of mutual concern besides that of the region and the international area.

The Tanzanian Foreign Ministry has emphasized that the bilateral diplomatic relations are historical since the era of the first Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere and late president Gamal Abdel Nasser

SIS reports that the bilateral political relations have witnessed a great development since President Abdel Fattah El Sisi assumed office, and Tanzania has been keen to participate in the inauguration ceremony of President El-Sisi in June 2014.

Also, Tanzanian Foreign Minister at that time Bernard Membe highlighted the necessity of Egypt's return to undertake its natural and historical role in the African Union's activities. In his meeting with the Egyptian ambassador in Tanzania in February 2016, President John Magufuli asserted his unlimited support for president El-Sisi Egypt's stability and security. Moreover, His Excellency expressed his appreciation for Egypt and its role in the past and present. Also, praising the distinguished bilateral relations.

The Tanzanian President expressed interest to develop the commercial and economic relations with Egypt, asserting that Tanzania needs to cooperate with Egypt in various fields and called for the Egyptian investors to probe the available cooperation opportunities in Tanzania in all fields mainly construction and building.

SIS's report pointed out that during the 28th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2017, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met his Tanzanian counterpart President John Magufuli, where President El Sisi expressed Egypt's

desire to develop cooperation with Tanzania in all fields, increase the volume of economic cooperation and trade exchange between them. Also, the President affirmed the importance of intensifying the consultation and coordination between the two countries amidst the existing common challenges especially terrorism, which threatens the whole African continent. President John Magufuli highlighted Tanzania's keenness to developing the close and historical bilateral relations. Moreover, he praised Egypt that restored its leading role in Africa in addition to its achievements in development and stability during the past two years. He expressed the appreciation of his country for Egypt's technical support, offered to the Tanzanian people in building of capabilities and training.

On the level of economic relations and trade, SIS report indicates that the two countries signed, in October 2002, an agreement for the establishment of a Tanzanian - Egyptian Business Council between the Egyptian Businessmen Association and Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tanzania. In 2015, the two countries concluded the negotiations on the abolition of customs duties on intra - trade in the context of the establishment of a tripartite free trade zone between the major economic blocs of Africa: "COMESA, SADC, and the East African Community, " which was signed during Sharm El -Sheikh Summit in 2015. The volume of trade exchange between the two sides reaches US 10.5 million (2010 estimates). The Egyptian exports to Tanzania include food and

chemical products, metals, products of stone or cement, plastic, pulp and pasteboard, wood and paper products, charcoal and live animals, shoes and optical devices. As for the imports, they include wood, raw leather and chemical products. Egypt seeks to operate a navigation line through the Red Sea starting from the Egyptian port of Safaga to link the East African countries overlooking its coast to boost economic and trade relations between the two countries. In addition, Egypt seeks to launch a river navigation line through the Mediterranean Sea, to pass through all Nile Basin states and ends at Lake Victoria .Egyptian consulting and engineering offices play a prominent role in the national mega projects in Tanzania, such as the construction of the "Kiqampona" bridge which connects the two sides of the city of Dar Es-Salaam, which was opened last year. Besides, they played a role in the expansion of Julius Nyerere Airport, which is being implemented at present. In addition, a number of the major Egyptian companies including the Arab Contractors Company operate in Tanzania, where infrastructure construction is booming. In the file of agricultural cooperation, the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture holds training programs to the Tanzanian agronomists through the common standard farm shared with Zanzibar by Egyptian experts who are permanently resident in the farm and train Tanzanian cadres on the latest agricultural techniques suitable for the local soil.

Within the framework of Egypt's interest in technical cooperation with Tanzania, the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides several training courses in the most important fields, including agriculture, judiciary, media, diplomacy and defense. To enhance parliamentary diplomacy, at present, a joint parliamentary friendship association is being established between the Egyptian House of Representatives and the Tanzanian National Assembly (Tanzanian House of Representatives).

The mutual visits exchanged by the two countries show that the two countries are keen to strengthen their relations in various fields. In November 2016, the Egyptian Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources visited Tanzania to inaugurate the second phase of groundwater wells north Tanzania. The second phase included 30 wells that were completely financed by Egypt, bringing the total number of the wells dug by Egypt to 60 within a project that targets 100 in the deprived areas in Tanzania. Moreover, the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visited Tanzania in November 2015 to attend the inauguration ceremony of President John Magufuli. The Egyptian Minister conveyed to the Tanzanian President wishes of success of President al-Sisi and people and government of Egypt to lead his people towards progress and prosperity. In June 2014, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister Bernard Membe paid a visit to Egypt to attend the inauguration ceremony of President El-Sisi.

On the level of cooperation in health sector, SIS report states that the Egyptian “ Nile of Hope Foundation” launched in July 2017, the fourth specialized convoy of hope to perform pediatric and congenital malformation surgeries in Zanzibar, Tanzania to treat children with congenital malformation for free. The convoy performed more than 50 surgeries and medical examinations for more than 200 children. Prior to that, in August 2016, a delegation consisting of 7 physicians from Alexandria University visited Tanzania and Zanzibar island, under the agreement signed between Alexandria University and the Tanzanian University of Muhambili to enhance health and scientific cooperation between the two universities in surgeries for children. This visit is considered the third for the third year in a row paid by a medical delegation from the University, as another medical team visited Tanzania, in the past two years to Tanzania to perform surgeries and treat children who need urgent medical care.