



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

9th September, 2021

Special Status/Special Arrangement for Tanzanian Diaspora

Background:

The term “Diaspora” is an ancient Greek word meaning “to scatter about” or “to disperse”. The Tanzanian Diaspora includes all Tanzanian Nationals living outside the borders of the United Republic of Tanzania; their spouses, children and grandchildren. Tanzanian National refers to anyone born in Tanzania, with at least one Tanzanian citizen parent.

Tanzanian Nationals who have acquired foreign citizenship are no longer eligible for Tanzanian Citizenship under the Tanzania Citizenship Act of 1995. By extension, their spouses (if non-Tanzanian citizens), children and grandchildren; are also not eligible for Tanzanian Citizenship under the Tanzania Citizenship Act of 1995.

The Government of Tanzania has recently shown keen interest to formally recognize the Tanzanian Diaspora via a yet-to-be-defined Special Status/Special Arrangement (SS/SA). Ideally, SS/SA would provide formal recognition and restore certain rights for the Tanzanian Diaspora.

Eligibility for Special Status/Special Arrangement:

1. Tanzanian Nationals living abroad who have acquired foreign citizenship and therefore, no longer eligible for Tanzanian Citizenship under the Tanzania Citizenship Act of 1995.
2. Spouses (if non-Tanzanian citizens), children and grandchildren of a Tanzanian National living abroad, regardless of citizenship status of the Tanzanian National living abroad.

Top Five Priority Rights and Privileges for Tanzania Diaspora:

DICOTA (Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America) performed a [survey](#) in July/August 2020, which identified the Top Five priority rights and privileges for Tanzanian Diaspora after formal recognition by the Government of Tanzania, namely:

1. The right to inherit property (including land) in Tanzania
2. The right to pass on inheritance to their heirs (including land) in Tanzania
3. The right to adopt children in Tanzania
4. The right to travel to Tanzania without a visa
5. The right to invest in Tanzania, with equal privileges to Tanzanian citizens



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Unleashing The Tanzania Diaspora Potential:

Remittances

The Tanzanian Diaspora contributed over \$4 Billion USD to the Tanzanian economy via [remittances](#) between 2010-2020; contributing \$409 Million USD in the year 2020 alone, equivalent to 0.6% of the Tanzanian GDP. This is likely an underestimate since informal remittances are not captured by formal data. Most importantly, remittances and investments by Tanzanian Diaspora in the Tanzanian economy will likely increase following formal recognition by the Government of Tanzania. Remittances from the Kenyan Diaspora increased more than four-fold following approval of Dual Citizenship in Kenya in 2010; from \$686 Million USD (2010) to \$3.1 Billion (2020), equivalent to 3.1% of the Kenyan GDP.

Skills Transfer

Tanzanian Diaspora who have acquired foreign citizenship, mainly for employment purposes, are often highly skilled professionals spanning all sectors, including: healthcare, education, information technology, agriculture, industrial engineering, aerospace engineering, oil and gas, finance and accounting; just to mention a few. Skills transfer to Tanzania through collaboration, teaching, mentorship, and consultancy opportunities would be greatly facilitated by formal recognition by the Government of Tanzania. A database of Tanzanian Diaspora professionals could be created during the SS/SA process.

Tourism

Tanzanian Diaspora are best positioned to directly market and promote Tanzania as a tourist destination to their colleagues, friends, and neighbors where they reside. Tanzanian Nationals are also native-Swahili speakers which is an added advantage for promoting the Swahili language world-wide, opening additional opportunities for cultural tourism to Tanzania and teaching Kiswahili.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the *DICOTA Tanzania Diaspora Policy Taskforce.

Sincerely,

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President, DICOTA

Ms. Asha Nyang'anyi
Chair, DICOTA Board of Trustees



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