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PRESS RELEASE

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HON. PRIME MINISTER KASSIM MAJALIWA OFFICIATES THE LAUNCHING OF THE EU MDG INITIATIVE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT IN SUMBAWANGA

Wednesday 24th August, 2016; Sumbawanga: Hon. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has officiated the launch of the EU MDG Initiative Water Supply and Sanitation Project, in Sumbawanga town. The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of the Government of Tanzania, and is funded by the European Union in partnership with the German government through its Development Bank, KfW, as part of the EU MDG Initiative for improved access to drinking water and sanitation.

The occasion also received high level attendance from government officials at Ministerial, Regional and District levels, including the presence of the European Union Head of Infrastructure Section, Mr. Fabio Di Stefano and the Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dar es Salaam Ms. Julia Hannig.

As part of its commitment to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the EU has provided EUR 51.25 million (approx. 130 billion TZS) for the project to achieve the MDG goal 7c concerning the urban water supply and sanitation. In his remarks Mr. Fabio Di Stefano, EU Head of Infrastructure section said, "*We European citizens trust that this project will soon ensure more and cleaner water for the friendly citizens of Sumbawanga*".

Moreover, this initiative represents the long and steady cooperation between the EU and Germany in the water sector in Tanzania. Through the contribution from EU and a further contribution of EUR 30 million (approx. 72 billion TZS) from Germany, the project will benefit five towns in total, namely Kigoma, Sumbawanga, Lindi, Babati and Mtwara, ultimately reaching 960,000 beneficiaries.

"We congratulate the Tanzania Government for the progress made in the water sector. Since 2007, more than 10 mio people gained access to water. This success is due to an impressive improvement of regulation, planning and financial management in the sector", said the Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Julia Hannig in her remarks.

The project will guarantee access to water supply services and access to sanitation services in the five towns. This will strongly reduce the risks of water-borne diseases and contribute to poverty reduction by improving access to safe and affordable water and improved sanitation infrastructure.



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Background Note

The MDG Initiative was announced by Former President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, at the United Nations High Level Summit in September 2010. Under the Initiative, the European Union decided to dedicate up to Euro 1 billion to advance progress on the most off-track MDGs in *African, Caribbean and Pacific partner countries*, in recognition of their performance, engagement and needs. Fifty six proposals from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were received in response to this Initiative. The Proposal from Tanzania was amongst thirty five that qualified for funding.

The project will contribute to the achievement of the MDG goals 7.c concerning the urban water supply and sanitation. The focus is on upgrading the water system collection, treatment and distribution; upgrade of the sanitation systems specifically in septic tanks and pit latrines; and strengthen the Urban Water Supply Authorities' capacity.

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