



## **MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to thank Almighty God for blessing us with good health and the ability to meet this morning for the purpose of giving you updates on the status of the upstream petroleum sector in Zanzibar. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to His Excellency, the President of Zanzibar, and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, for his efforts and directives that led to the development of this sector.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On July 31, 2023, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries announced the opening of the new areas for exploration of petroleum located on the Zanzibar's offshore areas. On that occasion, you were updated on the status of the analysis of the data received from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. Based on those data, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries is pleased to let you know that the demarcation processes for a total of eight (8) offshore blocks have been completed and are now ready for promotion.

That development, however, could not have been realised without the concerted efforts of our two leaders: the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to convey our deep gratitude to our leaders for their cooperation and vision that led to the successful transfer of data to the Government of Zanzibar for the benefit of all Tanzanians.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In order to attract more investments, Zanzibar has recently improved terms and conditions for upstream investment, including the passing of the Miscellaneous Amendment of the Oil and Gas Act (2016) and the review of the Model Production Sharing Agreement (2017). At the moment, Zanzibar has passed a second-generation Model Production Sharing Agreement (2024) that will attract foreign investment and be geared towards strengthening the Zanzibar economy.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Based on the above backdrop, I am delighted to announce to the public that the preparations for the launch of the Zanzibar 1<sup>st</sup> Licencing Round are complete and that Zanzibar is now ready to embark on the promotion of the eight (8) offshore blocks. The official launching ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Licencing Round will be held on March 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Golden Tulip Hotel at Zanzibar Airport. The guest of honour at the launching event is the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to take this opportunity once again to congratulate the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, for the support and guidance he has given us that led to this historic milestone in the upstream oil and gas sector. The launch of the Zanzibar 1<sup>st</sup> Licencing Round will lead to further diversification of the Zanzibar economy and cement Zanzibar's position as a new oil and gas province in the world.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to invite and encourage the world's oil and gas exploration and production companies to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in this 1<sup>st</sup> licensing round of eight (8) offshore blocks. On behalf of the Government of Zanzibar, I'm taking this opportunity to assure you that the investment environment in Zanzibar is attractive and competitive, with a proven track record of stability and good governance. We look forward to cooperating with all investors for the mutual benefit of everyone.

**Thank you for your kind attention**

**HON. SHAABAN ALI OTHMAN  
MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES  
17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**