

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES**



**STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER FOR LIVESTOCK  
DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES HON. JOHN P.MAGUFULI  
(MP) ON THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY - 4 OCTOBER**



**Dear Citizens**

**The 4<sup>of</sup>** October every year the world celebrates the **World Animal Day**. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf extend greetings and call for Tanzanians to mark this day as well as extend our sincere support to its course-acknowledging the contribution of animal life to us mankind. On this day, animal life in all its forms is celebrated, and special events are planned on locations all over the globe. October 4<sup>TH</sup> was chosen as World Animal Day because it is the feast day of St.Francis of Assisi, a nature lover and patron saint of animals and the environment.

The World Animal Day observation was started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence as a way of highlighting the plight of endangered species. Since then it has grown to encompass all kinds of animal life and is widely celebrated in countries throughout the world. It is not restricted to any one nationality, creed, religion, political belief or ideology.

In Tanzania the World Animal Day celebrations were first marked in 2007 under the patronage of the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) Africa Region Office and Jane Goodall- Roots and Shorts in liaison with our ministry and it highlighted on the importance of animals in our society

**Dear Citizens**

**The World Animal Day** is intended as a day of celebration for anyone in the world who cares about animals. Everybody should use this special day to commemorate their love and respect for animals by doing something special to highlight the importance of animals in the world. **The Mission Statement for World Animal Day is:**

- **To celebrate animal life in all its forms**
- **To celebrate humankind's relationship with the animal kingdom**
- **To acknowledge the diverse roles that animals play in our lives – from being our companions, supporting and helping us, to bringing a sense of wonder into our lives**
- **To acknowledge and be thankful for the way in which animals enrich our lives**

The different forms of animal life include farmed animals, companion and guard animals, work animals, laboratory animals, research animals, wildlife, marine life and insects like bees. Tanzania is endowed with diverse forms of animal life of which farmed animal and marine life are under the jurisdiction of my Ministry. Farm animals and their products have a longstanding and successful history of providing significant contributions to human nutrition, clothing, draught animal power, research, development and medicine and have thus been essential in improving human life expectancy. The following statistics support this assertion:

- (i) Nutrition
  - According to 2008/09 statistics consumption per capita in Tanzania for animal derived food were for fish 6.9 kilograms, meat 11 kg, eggs 64 and milk 41 litres of which 99% of them were produced locally in Tanzania without which the country would have to cough out about 13 trillion Tanzanian shillings .to import them.
- (ii) Income and revenue earnings
  - The fisheries sector in 2007/08 earned the country 213.2 billion Tsh as foreign income, 7.6 billion Tsh as government revenue and employed about 134,000 people.
  - Likewise the livestock sector earned the country 23.8 billion Tsh as foreign income

*"No-one who looks at the evidence can doubt that animals in hand improve the quality of modern human life..."*

Tanzania is endowed with diverse forms of wildlife which have an immense contribution to our economy. We have set aside nearly 23% of our land mass for wildlife conservation and the advantages of this are reflected in the booming tourism industry. We are aware of animals that are being trained as mine detectors and explosives and sniffing narcotics in the war zones and airports. Experts are now training animal to detect TB infected patients in samples collected from human beings and over and above, animals are a source for vaccines used in treating humans.

Animal as a whole have high economic value to us and therefore they matter. I am earnestly calling on all Tanzanians in person or through civil societies that are advocating animal welfare practices to celebrate the World Animal Day. The celebration for this year are being coordinated by TSPCA (Tanzania Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in Dar es Salaam

I wish you all the best on this day and the World animal week.

*"Animals matter to us, that they can feel pain and can suffer and that we have a responsibility to put an end to their cruelty"*

**John P. Magufuli (MB)**  
**Minister for Livestock Development and Fisheries**