

PRESS RELEASE
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H.E. EXCELLENCY JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, THE PRESIDENT LAUNCHES THE KARIMJEE JIVANJEE FAMILY BOOK

H.E. Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, The President launched the Karimjee Jivanjee family book on Saturday February 13th from 5.00pm to 8.00pm at an exclusive function at the Kilimanjaro Kempinski Hotel.

Hatim A. Karimjee, Chairman of Karimjee Jivanjee Ltd began by welcoming H.E. The President, the Honorable Minister of Home Affairs Lawrence K. Masha, MP, Honorable Regional Commissioner for Dar es Salaam William Lukuvi, Ambassadors and distinguished guests including Karimjee Jivanjee family members visiting from the UK, Mauritius and Pakistan.

He began by saying "This is a very special day for the Karimjee Family because it has been our intention to write this history for many years and finally it has been achieved. This book has taken three years of research and writing".

He congratulated Professor Gijsbert Oonk for writing an excellent book, well illustrated with many historical photos. He continued by highlighting Professor Oonk's strength as an academic and a historian and his approach which was always to cross reference and look for other sources to reach the truth.

The book which records the 200 year history of the family is firstly a fascinating adventure story and secondly is a tribute to the Karimjee family's ancestors who crossed the "kali pani" in a dhow from India to Africa at the beginning of the 19th Century. Having reached Zanzibar, the family ancestors prospered in the face of amazing difficulties through determination, hard work and an enterprising spirit.

One of the most unique features of the Family's story is that it is still united after more than nine generations spanning more than two hundred years and its businesses still remain in the family's hands and under family management. This alone is an astonishing feat.

The Karimjee Family are proud of their charitable contributions through the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation. The focus of the Foundation is to provide scholarships and educational assistance to young Tanzanians to study in Tanzania. The Foundation has most recently agreed to donate 2000 mattresses and 2000 blankets to the Kilosa Disaster Relief Committee.

After the welcome speech Honourable Minister of Home Affairs Lawrence K. Masha, MP introduced H.E. The President.

The President praised the Karimjee family for their generous contributions to Tanzania and said that the history of the Karimjee family is closely linked to the history of Tanzania. He emphasized their contribution to the political history of Tanzania and also recognised their social, communal and charitable contributions. He paid tribute to the donation of the Karimjee Hall that was used by Parliament for more than 40 years. He made an appeal to see the book translated into Kiswahili and also printed in paperback to make it readily affordable to more Tanzanians. He ended by praising the family for their good citizenship.

The evening culminated in special 'signed' book presentations firstly from the Karimjee Family to H.E. The President and secondly from H.E. The President to the Karimjee Family for auction at a fund raising event for the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation.

Enchanting melodies of a Zanzibar Tarab group and the energetic movement of THT dancers then entertained the guests as this historic and memorable function came smoothly to a close.

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