

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF ARMFA AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING
CEREMONY OF THE 4TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – ARUSHA,
TANZANIA 7 NOV. 2005

Our Guest of Honour; Honourable William LUKUVI, (MP), Minister of State
in the Prime Minister's Office,
Deputy Minister for Works, Honourable Hamza MWENEGOHA, (MP),
The Regional Commissioner for Arusha, Mr. Mohamed BABU,
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, Eng. John KIJAZI,
The Representatives of SSATP
The Representatives of our Partners in Development,
The President and Representatives of AGEPAR,
The Chairpersons and Members of African Road Fund Boards,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of delegations of ARMFA and dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Organising Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to take the floor after two other speakers to extend my cordial welcome in this African land of Tanzania, to all the delegates of ARMFA. Your massive presence at the meeting of Arusha illustrates your engagement to the cause of our young Association. I am grateful to you all.

Permit me, in the name of all you members and in my personal name, to sincerely thank the Tanzanian authorities as well as the organisers, led by our able colleague Mr. Joseph HAULE, for the excellent reception and advantages which we have enjoyed since our arrival at Arusha, one of the principal African capitals for international conferences.

The Honourable Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, representing the government of this beautiful country, your presence among us this morning is testimony of the special interest which your country has in our Association, as well as to the road sector. Please transmit our gratitude to your government for their support to ARMFA.

I also thank our traditional partners, and particularly, the SSATP who have never relented their efforts to accompany us in the execution of our programme of activities. The logistic and financial contributions of SSATP to the present meeting are highly appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, the first African conference of Road Maintenance Funds was held in Libreville, Gabon in mid-December 2003 where, our association, the African Road Maintenance Funds Association, ARMFA was officially created.

This conference was a great success with the presence of RMF or equivalent coming from 19 countries.

After Libreville, Lome and Nairobi, we are here in Arusha at our 4th General Assembly. The themes of the technical workshop taking place with this ordinary general assembly, which we are holding today, are very important and current.

They are perfectly in keeping with the implementation of some of our statutory objectives such as the promotion of an efficient management of RMF and the exchange of information and experiences in order to share the best methods of collecting resources and the financing of road maintenance works in Africa.

A good number of RMF are today confronted with a major difficulty of being truly autonomous in the mechanisms of collecting their resources. The resources transit through the treasury or other public organ which does not favour their growth or their sustainability.

This exercise of examining various cases of different revenue collection will be beneficial to all in that we can get the best lessons, the implementation of which can be envisaged or negotiated by any interested country with the competent authorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are key actors in a sector which is a priority for our economies. Today, the role of the road sector in the fight against poverty in Africa is recognised by all.

In effect, road infrastructures of a good level of service are vital for the socio-economic development of our countries and the integration of African states. They play an important role in inter-state trade, facilitate the movement of persons and goods across frontiers.

We should today play an efficient role in this sector by ensuring the maintenance programmes of our existing road networks are executed within good technical standards with financial rigor.

The autonomy in the collection of resources consecrated to road maintenance and their proper and rigorous management should constitute, for us the officials of RMF, a veritable driving force.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is nearly two years since the present Executive Committee has been piloting the destiny of ARMFA. Now that we are getting ready to pass on the baton herein Arusha, we remain proud of the progress that our association has recorded these last years. We wish to renew our sincere gratitude to all those of you who have helped us to accomplish, with enthusiasm, the exalting mission which you entrusted to us in Lome.

I wish our meeting full success in Arusha.

Long live ARMFA;

May the Lord protect you;

Thank you for your kind attention.

Assiba AMOUSSOU-GUENOU
General Manager ofRMF- TOGO
President of ARMFA