

# **4<sup>TH</sup> ARMFA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WORKSHOP**

## **WORKSHOP CLOSING SPEECH**

**By Mr. Mohamed Babu, Regional Commissioner for  
Arusha**

*Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, Arusha, Tanzania*

*7<sup>th</sup> November 2005*

The Organising Committee Chairman and Roads Fund Manager Mr. Joseph Haule,  
The President of the African Road Funds Association (ARMFA), Mr. Assiba AMOUSSOU-GENOU,  
First Vice President of ARMFA, Mr. Raphael Mabenga,  
Second Vice President of ARMFA, Mrs. Ramata TANOHO,  
Auditor of ARMFA, Mr. Joseph Claude GWED-BI-MINYEM,  
Chief Executives of African Road Funds,  
Chairpersons of African Road Funds,  
Representatives of African Road Authorities,  
Board Members of the Roads Fund,  
Representatives of Road Agencies in Tanzania,  
Development Partners representatives,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is my pleasure to be given this valuable opportunity of officiating the closing session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop of ARMFA. Thank you very much.

**Honourable Chairperson and Workshop Participants,**

2. I am aware that, the first two meetings of this kind were held in Gabon and Togo respectively while the 3<sup>rd</sup> was held by our neighbours, Kenya, last year. The 4<sup>th</sup> and current workshop having pertinent and relevant themes, “Mechanism of Collecting Road Fund Revenues” and “Negotiations for Widening Road Tariffs”, is being held in Tanzania and particularly in the City of Arusha. Therefore let me join hands with my colleagues on behalf of the Government of Tanzania to thank all of you for having voted Tanzania to host this event.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. This Workshop with the themes could not have come at a better and opportune time than now. It has been conducted at a moment when Tanzania is embarking on extensive undertaking to improve its road network as a matter of priority. In this endeavour we are targeting to link all the Regional headquarters by paved trunk roads by the year 2012. We are doing this because we are

sure that our economic growth will depend heavily on the improved road network.

As we improve and rehabilitate our roads we also recognise the importance of ensuring that we preserve the investment incurred by doing adequate maintenance. Having learnt from the past mistakes where we built and rehabilitated roads without adequately maintaining them and thus leading us into the viscous circle of build – rehabilitate - no maintenance –rehabilitate, we consider maintenance as a prerequisite in the whole agenda of road infrastructure management. In order to achieve this we have established and supported a dedicated fund for financing road maintenance. As it is for other developing countries and also for other socio-economic sectors, available funds are always in shortfall and always the road sector has to compete with other sectors in getting the share of the national cake. It is estimated that our maintenance funds can only cover about 40% of the needs. This is a big challenge not only to Tanzania but to all Member States represented in this workshop. Now this is where the themes of your workshop come in.

## **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. Your workshop has focused on the themes “Mechanism of Collecting Road Fund Revenues” and “Negotiations for Widening Road Tariffs”. Both these themes are geared towards ensuring availability of adequate funds for road maintenance. I have been told that the workshop participants have shared experience and best practices in collections of fuel levy, road tolls, transit fees and overloading fees. It is my anticipation that the so gained experience will be put in practice once we get back to our respective countries.

## **Honourable Chairperson,**

5. It will be a miss of me if I did mention something about one important cross cutting issue of HIV/AIDS.

We all have to join efforts in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Otherwise, the success of ARMFA will be in jeopardy as the major input, which is Labour will not be available as and when required.

## **Distinguished Participants,**

6. I hope that the partnership we have been able to develop for the success of this workshop will be maintained and nurtured. The importance of

strengthening partnerships in exchange and sharing of information and best practices has a significant contribution in the process of tackling the problem of inadequacy of maintenance funds.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. Finally but not least, it will be unfair if I don't recognize the efforts and efficiency embedded and shown by those involved in one way or another to support, organise and participate in the workshop. Without their dedication and commitment the outcome of the workshop would not have been as fruitful as it has been

**Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Participants Ladies and Gentlemen,**

8. After these remarks, I now take the pleasure to announce that the 4<sup>th</sup> ARMFA workshop is officially closed and I wish you good deliberations in your General Assembly tomorrow and subsequent safe journey back home.

Thank you for your attention and **GOD BLESS YOU.**