

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
WORKS TANZANIA, HON. HAMZA MWENEGOHA AT THE
OPENING OF THE 4TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND GENERAL
MEETING OF AFRICAN ROAD MAINTENANCE FUNDS
ASSOCIATION AT THE NGURDOTO MOUNTAIN LODGE
ARUSHA 7TH NOVEMBER 2005**

**Our Guest of Honour; Honourable Frederick Tluway Sumaye, Prime
Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania,
The Regional Commissioner for Arusha Mr. Mohamed Babu,
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 TANOHI,
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.**

Honourable Prime Minister,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you for accepting our invitation to come and officiate the opening of this important workshop. We understand that you are busy with other National commitments, yet you made a decision to devote some of your valuable time to this Meeting. This shows how much you value road maintenance reforms. It is my hope that Leaders in other Countries will emulate your example and support the process of reforms in the road sector. Thank you very much honourable Prime Minister, for the honour you have accorded us. Let me assure you that all members of ARMFA and Workshop delegates who are here today and stakeholders all over the country have been encouraged by your presence here.

Honourable Prime Minister,

I also wish to thank all the Delegates who have attended this meeting and workshop, especially those who have travelled long distances from outside

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Tanzania. We highly value the presence of every delegate in this meeting because road maintenance reforms are about learning new techniques from each other and sharing experiences. On behalf of the Ministry of Works, I say KARIBUNI SANA, and I hope that you will find your stay here in Arusha and in Tanzania both interesting and rewarding.

Honourable Prime Minister,

The organization of this meeting and workshop has been possible due to the commitment and dedication of our Roads Fund Board, the Secretariat of the Board, the Organizing Committee of the meeting and the strong support availed by the Ministry of Works. I am glad that after a long period of preparations, today the meeting has become a reality. At this juncture, I wish to thank all those involved in the preparations and the organizations which supported or contributed funds generously to sponsor this meeting. Apart from the Roads Fund Board, other organizations which have supported this meeting are the Ministry of Works, World Bank/SSATP, TANAPA, Regional Commissioner Arusha Region, TANROADS Arusha Region and Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge.

Honourable Prime Minister,

The main theme of this workshop as picked by ARMFA is *“Mechanisms of collecting road fund Revenues & Negotiation for widening Road Tariffs”*. The theme is very relevant to our national development agenda and the Region as a whole.

I understand various technical subjects will be covered during this workshop. However, I expect the workshop also to address the issue of fighting corruption at the weighbridges when discussing mechanisms of collecting overloading fees. Ideally overloading fees are not expected to be a source of revenue for the Roads Fund but rather a deterrent to reduce overloading. However, since it is being collected there is a need to ensure that all proceeds reach the intended destination. Delegates should therefore exchange experiences on how corruption can be successfully fought and eradicated at the weighbridges. It is my hope the workshop will deliberate the issues fully and my Ministry will be pleased to receive workshop recommendations and guidance from you, for development of our future strategies.

Honourable Prime Minister,

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Due to the fact that this is a very short gathering, it is my expectation that the meeting delegates will make the best use of their time during this three days gathering in order to attain maximum benefit from the presentations. I urge my Tanzanian counterparts to interact with our foreign delegates in order to utilize this rare opportunity in experience sharing. I once again wish you pleasant stay in Tanzania and Arusha in particular and active participation to the meeting

Honourable Prime Minister,

After these few remarks, my task this morning becomes simple, that is only to welcome you to open this important workshop. It is now my humble pleasure and privilege to invite you to address the participants and to formally open the 4th General Assembly and Workshop of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA).

Honourable Prime Minister, Please Welcome.