

**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF ARMFA, MR. JOSEPH HAULE TO THE  
MEETING OF AGEPAR IN BAMAKO, MALI 23 FEBRAURY 2006**

Your Excellency, the Minister of Equipment and Transport of the Republic of Mali,  
The President of AGEPAR,  
The Chairman of the Mali Organising Committee,  
Chief Executives of African Road Agencies and Directors of Road Departments,  
Representatives of African Road Funds,  
Our Partners in Development,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to take the floor at this august assembly of the African Association of Managers and Partners of Roads, (AGEPAR) holding this 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 in Bamako, Mali on behalf of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association, (ARMFA).

It has become a tradition that ARMFA and AGEPAR invite each other to their meetings in order to share experiences on the management and financing of the African roads. This is the first time that I am attending your assembly in my capacity as President of ARMFA. Permit me, therefore, to thank the President of AGEPAR for inviting me, my Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Tanzanian Road Fund Board, Mr. Philip Magani, to take part at this meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation for the excellent hospitality given to us since our arrival in this beautiful capital city.

Your Excellency the Minister of Equipment and Transport,  
The President of AGEPAR,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The relationship existing between AGEPAR and ARMFA is a natural one. Whilst one represents agencies responsible for execution of road works, the other provides and manages funding for these works. It is thus of importance that the two associations work together not only to share experiences but also to ensure that the roads of Africa are protected by the best means possible for the good of our economies which depend so heavily on road transportation. The themes of the technical seminar of this meeting, “the state of institutional reforms in the transport sector for the last fifteen years” and “the technical specifications for performance based road maintenance contracts” are especially apt as we not only want to know how far we have come but also to find the best methods for maintaining our roads efficiently. The outcome of the second theme in particular will enable us maximize our efforts in road maintenance with improved benefits to the economy.

ARMFA recently held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, attended by delegates from 29 countries in sub Saharan Africa. The meeting that was held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 discussed a number of issues related to the operation of Road Funds. The themes were “mechanisms for collecting Road Fund revenues” and “negotiations for widening road tariffs”. Our aim was to seek means and ways of improving funding for the maintenance of road networks.

Road Funds were established to provide sustainable funding for road maintenance and as of date considerable achievements have been registered and I am proud to mention a few of them here:

- Twenty five Road Funds have been established by legislation in Sub Saharan Africa.
- There is a remarkable increase in funding available for roads.
- The flow of funds has become stable and regular.
- There is tremendous improvement in road network conditions.
- The private sector is well represented in Road Boards.
- Transparency has been enhanced by technical and financial audits of the road funds.
- An enabling environment (prompt payment of bills etc.) has been created for the promotion of local construction industries thus creating jobs and helping to alleviate poverty.

Your Excellency,

The President of AGEPAR,

The establishment of Road Funds has been going on more or less at the same time with the establishment of Road Agencies but not at the same pace. In order for the Road Agencies to perform well, they need one important resource – adequate financing. A road Agency can have all the expertise and tools to manage a road network but if it does not have funds, its performance can not be high. Adequate and sustainable financing has been a major challenge to our countries. Other challenges which should be addressed accordingly by the Road Agencies include the following:

- Overloading on our roads,
- Backlog of maintenance,
- Road safety,
- Improving the performance of our contractors and consultants,
- Low volume of paved roads,
- Vandalism on road furniture by road users.

These challenges faced by the Road Agencies greatly affect the objectives of establishing Road Funds. It is thus necessary for the Road Agencies and Road Funds to recognize the importance of working together in order to improve the road networks of our countries which contribute immensely to the growth of our economies. At the end of

the day, the people of our continent want to have a road network in good condition and nothing less. It is our duty to satisfy the wishes of our people.

Your Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After these few remarks, may I wish AGEPAR a successful meeting and that its continued cooperation with ARMFA will flourish for many years to come.

Thank you for your kind attention.

JOSEPH HAULE

PRESIDENT OF ARMFA

ROAD FUND MANAGER, TANZANIA ROAD FUND BOARD