

REMARKS BY HON. JANUARY Y. MAKAMBA (MP.), MINISTER OF STATE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - UNION MATTERS AND ENVIRONMENT ON THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF NATIONAL CARBON MONITORING CENTRE (NCCM) ON 19TH MAY 2016

Permanent Secretary, Vice President's Office, Mr. Mbarak Abdulwakil;

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Major General Gaudence Milanzi;

Honorable Ambassador of Norway, Ms. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad;

Directors and Chief Executives of distinguished Government Agencies,

Vice Chancellor of Sokoine University of Agriculture, Professor Gerald C. Monela;

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin and Finance), Professor Yonika Ngaga;

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Peter Gillah;

Dean, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Professor Dos Santos Silayo;

NCCM Inception Team Coordinator, Professor Eliakimu Zahabu;

Distinguished members of SUA community;

Representatives from NGOs;

Representatives from the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers for inviting me to officiate this Launching Ceremony of the National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCCM).

Distinguished Guests,

As a **Minister of State, Vice President's Office – responsible for Union Matters and Environment**, I feel greatly honoured and pleased to be part of the gathering of this occasion in the capacity of Guest of Honour. I congratulate the organizers, in particular the **National Carbon Monitoring Center (NCCM) Inception Team** for their efforts and for making us meet to celebrate this milestone event aiming at sustainable environmental management in Tanzania.

I have been informed that this event has brought together several invitees from within and outside the country. The invitees include policy makers and representatives from the government, government agencies, eminent researchers and academicians, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector. Let me welcome the Norwegian delegation, particularly members of the Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) and Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) who are visiting Tanzania for the first time. This inspiring turnover is a testimony of your commitment to sustainable environmental management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you might recall, in 2008, the Royal Norwegian Government and the United Republic of Tanzania signed a Letter of Intent on a Climate Change Partnership with focus on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The two countries agreed to cooperate on climate change and make Tanzania ready for REDD+. Norway committed to support our cooperation with up to NOK 500 million (approximately US \$ 100 million) for the period of five years from 2008 to 2013. Significant achievements have been attained through this support and cooperation.

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I reiterate our sincere appreciation for this support from the Royal Norwegian Government through its Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) .

We all know that during REDD+ readiness phase, Tanzania was able to undertake the following activities:

- Prepared the National Framework for REDD+;
- Prepared the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan;
- Carried out nine REDD+ pilot project; and
- Raised awareness in REDD+ to different stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the above initiatives, I have been informed that the Norwegian Government through NICFI, supported a number of research projects including the multi-institutional capacity building Programme on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation (CCIAM) in Tanzania. Indeed, the programme has greatly improved the national capacity to participate in the future climate change initiatives especially on future REDD+ advancement. I am aware that a total of over 28 PhD and 69 MSc/MA students were trained in various Universities in Tanzania and Norway. In addition, five short-courses were undertaken through CCIAM Programme. **It is also my pleasure to learn that this building hosting the NCMC was built through CCIAM progamme.** It is a landmark and prestige for Tanzania to have the first center in East Africa and probably in the Sub Saharan Africa.

Launching of this center has come at the right moment as we prepare ourselves to commence implementation of the Paris Agreement that was adopted last year at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We are preparing the programme on implementation of our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in which the Center (NCCM) has a big role to play by data and information. As a country, we are proud of this center and it is of a great honour to all Tanzanians.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the first phase of Climate Change Partnership between Norway and Tanzania came to an end in 2013, we are happy to learn that Norway is still interested and willing to assist us to move forward in REDD+ implementation and forest conservation initiatives. We thank the Royal Norwegian Government for the demonstrated commitment to support Tanzania which has been historical since NORAD fellowship and the like. I wish to assure the Royal Norwegian Government that the 5th Tanzanian Government regime is prepared to move to the next stage in REDD+ implementation to enhance conservation of forests and the environment at large. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania committed to strengthen our Climate Change Partnership. As you might have noted, we are already working with various stakeholders to finalize our National Tree Planting Programme (2016-2021) that will be shared and implemented by various stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have also been informed that one of the early activities of NCCM will be the establishment of Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Tanzania.

I am happy to learn that this activity has already started, and is expected to be accomplished before December this year. I urge the technical team to diligently accomplish this exercise so that Tanzania can start benefiting from the result based mechanisms under REDD+. **My dream is that, we become a Center of Excellence in Sub Sahara Africa if not the Africa Region. Let's work hard and move together.**

Dear Guests,

Let me once again thank the Royal Norwegian Government for the bold decision made to finance REDD+ processes including the establishment of NCMC. With these commitments it is my sincere hope that our partnership will continue and be more strengthened for Tanzania to benefit from the future REDD+.

With these remarks, I now have the pleasure to declare the National Carbon Monitoring Centre officially Launched.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING