

**Welcoming Speech on the Launching Ceremony of the National Carbon
Monitoring Centre (NCCM) held on 19th May 2016**

by

Professor Gerald C. Monela,

Vice Chancellor

Sokoine University of Agriculture

- **Honourable Minister of State, Vice President's Office, Union Affairs and Environment, January Y. Makamba (MP),**
- **Honourable Permanent Secretary, Vice President's Office, Mr Mbarak Abdulwakil,**
- **Honourable Permanent Secretary, MNRT, Major General Gaudence Milanzi,**
- **Honourable Ambassador of Norway, Ms Hanne-Marie Kaarstad,**
- **Directors and Chief Executives of distinguished Government Agencies,**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin and Finance) – Professor Yonika M. Ngaga,**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) – Professor Peter R. Gillah,**
- **Act. Dean, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation – Professor Dos Santos A. Silayo,**
- **NCCM Inception Team Coordinator, Professor Eliakimu Zahabu,**
- **Distinguished members of SUA community,**
- **Representatives from NGOs,**
- **Representatives from Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of Sokoine University of Agriculture and on my own behalf, to warmly welcome you all to SUA and to this event in particular. Special welcome is extended to the Honourable Guest of Honour January Y. Makamba and Ambassador of Norway Ms Hanne-Marie Kaarstad who are visiting the University for the first time. A warm welcome is also extended to the Government representatives, those of you who may be visiting SUA for the first time, and all who are coming from outside Morogoro, after have traveled all the way for this Launching activity. I hope you will find your visit to SUA both worthwhile and enjoyable.

I also wish to put on record my deep appreciation to you Mr. Guest of Honour, for coming to inaugurate the National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC). Your presence at this special event is an indication of the importance and recognition of the established Centre under the support from the Government of the Kingdom of Norway to enable Tanzania's active participation and also benefit from possible international carbon trading mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while address other challenges of the global impacts of climate change.

Guest of Honour,

As you are aware, Tanzania is a the Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which adopted the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation; forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) in 2005.

REDD+ is a result based mechanism that aims at incentivizing developing countries to receive financial benefits from developed countries in order to curb

global forests loss from various drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. However, before the payments are made, developing countries are required to put in place Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system that will enable them to quantify their achievements in REDD+. The MRV system requires among others establishment of Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) or Forest Reference Level (FRL) against which the REDD+ achievements will be determined.

Guest of Honour,

On 20th March 2013 the then Minister of State Vice President's Office - Environment officially announced Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) as a host institution for the NCMC after a competitive process. This shows that the Government of Tanzania has high trust to the University due to its enormous capacity on environmental matters including forest conservation and management. On behalf of the SUA, let once again thank the government of Tanzania for having trust to SUA in this important national assignment.

Guest of Honour

In order to be able to establish the centre, SUA in collaboration with the government stakeholders prepared a project proposal which was submitted and approved in June 2015. This was followed by signing of a bilateral Agreement between the Government of Tanzania and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding a development cooperation on the "*Establishing a National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC) in Tanzania*". This Agreement was countersigned by the Ministry of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Government of Tanzania in September 2015. Through this Agreement the Royal Government of the Kingdom

of Norway will provide a grant of up to 37 Million NOK over a 3-year period (2015-2018) for the establishment of NCMC.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Vice Presidents Office (VPO) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for the implementation of this project was signed on the 31st July 2014. Through this MoU the VPO designated SUA to host the establishment of NCMC related matters. The role of the Host Institution among others is to receive funds for the establishment of NCMC and be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Project. So far, SUA received the first disbursement of the project in December 2015 and started implementation of project activities in January 2016.

After receipt of the first disbursement, implementation of the project commenced immediately. In this regards SUA appointed Prof. Eliakimu Mnkondo Zahabu as the NCMC Inception Team Coordinator and Mr David Mapugilo as an NCMC Administration and Finance Officer. The centre will also harness available National capacity and support it with international expertise through a twinning collaboration with the Climate Center of the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO). In addition, Dr. Belachew Gizachew Zeleke was appointed to coordinate technical support from NIBIO and Norway at large. This team has been appointed to run the center during the the first six months inception phase before the NCMC permanent staff are recruited.

Guest of Honour,

Specific functions of NCMC that you are here to launch today will be to:

- a) Provide technical services on Measuring, Reporting and Verification for REDD+ at both National and sub-National levels;

- b) Accommodate emissions accounting from new sectors and provide Measuring, Reporting and Verification for social and environmental safeguards in MRV activities;
- c) Hosting and managing the National Carbon Database and REDD+ project registry;
- d) Verify and standardize research outcomes (models, reference emission levels, activity data and emission factors);
- e) Be the custodian of the National MRV system and platform;
- f) Be the centre for reporting and documentation on climate change related information;
- g) Provides policy and regulatory advice; and
- h) Provide oversight for governance and advocacy in forest carbon stocks and other carbon sinks and the likes.

Guest of Honour,

According to NCMC project document, activities to be done during the first six months (January-June 2016) are as follow:

- Recruitment of NCMC Inception Team Coordinator – Appointed and already on duty
- Recruitment of Programme Administrator and Accountant– Appointed and already on duty
- Recruitment of Senior International Advisor– Appointed and already on duty
- Appointment of NCMC Advisory Committee (AC) - Already done
- Recruitment of NCMC permanent staff:-
 - Recruitment process has been initiated
 - Drafts ToR completed

- Posts advertisement by end of January 2016.
- Interviews and selection will be in May 2016,
- Selected candidates will be informed by end of May 2016
- Official launching of NCMC– Today
- Procurement of equipment: 4 cars procured, Furniture procured, and Computers under way
- Establishment of NCMC website: Website has been constructed and launched. Continuous updating will follow.
- Preparation of work plans, budgets and operational guidelines for the next 6 months–Already done
- Prepare international partnership arrangement with NIBIO– Already done
- Prepare agreements on data sharing and exchange protocol – Sharing protocol prepared

Guest of Honour,

I am therefore happy to inform you that progress made so far on implementation of NCMC activities is impressive.

Guest of Honour

The United Republic of Tanzania through its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted to UNFCCC in 2015 anticipates to reduce carbon footprint in the forest sector by about 10% in 2030. In order to quantify and adequately report on these intended achievements including REDD+, the Forest Reference Emission Level is required. Due to the importance and urgent need of the establishment of the Forest Reference Emission Level for the country, NCMC already started working on the development of the Forest Reference

Emission Level for Tanzania. The process which involved different stakeholders was initiated in October 2015. Since April this year there has been a series of technical working sessions and stakeholders' workshops on the process.

It is expected that the process of establishment of Forest Reference Emission Level for Tanzania will be concluded in December 2016 and the plan is that the country will meet the UNFCCC submission deadline of January 2017. This is important aspect if the country needs its Forest Reference Level to be evaluated by UNFCCC in 2017.

Guest of Honour,

Before I conclude my welcome remarks, let me once again thank the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Norway for the generous support for the establishment of this centre. Sokoine University of Agriculture is thankful to this continuous support.

With these few remarks and with great honor, may I before welcome you to officially launch the operations of the NCMC, requesting the Hon. Ambassador of Norway to deliver her speech. Hon. Ms Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, you're welcome!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!