



**REMARKS OF THE ILO DIRECTOR OF THE ILO FOR EAST
AFRICA, MR. WELLINGTON CHIBEBE AT THE OCCASION
OF
NATIONAL MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS
IRINGA – 1ST MAY, 2018**

Guest of Honour

Your Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Hon. John Pombe Magufuli,

Hon. Jenista Mhagama (MP) – Minister, PMO, Labour, Employment,
youth, Parliament affairs and persons with Disability

Hon. Anthony Mavunde (MP)– Deputy Minister, PMO, Labour,
Employment, youth, Parliament affairs and persons with Disability

All Ministers present here

All Permanent Secretaries present here

Members of Parliament

Mr. Eric Shitindi Permanent Secretary, PMO, Labour, Employment,
youth, Parliament affairs and persons with Disability

Ms. Amina Juma Masenza –Regional Commissioner, Iringa Region.
Chairman of TUCTA Mr. Tumaini Nyamuhokya,
Secretary General of TUCTA Dr. Yahya Msigwa,
Chairman, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) Madam Jayne
Nyimbo-Taylor
Executive Director, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) ,Dr.
Aggrey Mlimuka
Regional Commissioner, Iringa, Ms. Amina Juma Masenza
Workers of the United Republic of Tanzania,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocols observed.

I am honoured to be with you on this auspicious event in which we celebrate International Workers’ Day. It is a day full of history and symbolism for workers’ solidarity and the struggle for decent working conditions. On behalf of the ILO, our Director General Mr. Guy Ryder, our Regional Director Madam Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon and on my own behalf, I express our sincere greetings to you all.

This year’s May Day theme is one that is at the core of the ILO’s mission in the world of work and one that contributes enormously

to making work decent. **Social security** is a social and economic necessity to combat poverty and social exclusion and promote development, equality and equal opportunity. It has a powerful impact at all levels of society.

**Guest of Honour,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Only 20 percent of the world's population has adequate social security coverage, while more than half lacks any kind of social security protection at all. It remains a fact that the majority of working men and women in Africa are found in the informal economy; yet, most of them have no social security coverage at all. Despite efforts to extend coverage to the majority of the working population our efforts have fallen short. This has been due to, among other reasons, the wrong assumption the international community made by expecting that an increasing proportion of the labour force in developing countries would end up in formal sector employment or self-employment covered by social security. Experience in developing countries - and more recently in the industrialized countries - has shown that this proportion is in many cases now stagnating or declining.

Based on the premise that social security is a human right and a social and economic necessity, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has established a strategy for addressing the challenge of extending social security coverage to all and further developing and maintaining comprehensive social security systems. The strategy aims to build the systems in line with national priorities, resources and circumstances and guided by international norms, such as ILO Convention no.102 (1952) on minimum social security standards and Recommendation No. 202 (2012) on Social protection floors.

I am glad that we are fully involved in the process of ratifying this convention (C 102) based on the social security regulations in the country. Ratification will benefit the country in terms of international regulations on the developments of social security sector including getting international, technical assistance and annual audits.

**Guest of Honour,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is for this reason that the ILO welcomes the enactment of the new Public Service Social Security Act, 2018 as we see it as a key

step in the national endeavor of making social security work for the benefits of working women and men of Tanzania. The new act augurs well with the above strategy which highlights the fact that governments have the primary responsibility for ensuring effective access to social security to all.

We are glad to have been fully involved in the development of this Act which paves the way to merging of social security pension funds from the five to two. This will facilitate transformation in the management and administration of the social security sector in the country.

We commend the government for the efforts made to establish the Workers Compensation Fund, (WCF) which is solely intended for providing benefits related to employment injuries and occupational diseases.

The ILO is also working with the government to review the national social security policy (2003) to accommodate new developments in the sector. The review will result to the national social protection policy that comprehensively addresses risks and vulnerabilities across different segments of the population.

**Guest of Honour,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am happy to note the representation of workers and employers on the boards of the social security funds. They equally share the burden carried mainly by government of making the new social security dispensation in Tanzania to work for the hard working men and women of this country.

I wish to call upon the government, in consultation with workers and employers and other stakeholders, to undertake measures to ratify and give full effect to the provisions of Convention 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards) and Convention 183 on Maternity Protection, the latter of which adds impetus to setting gender balance to the priority needs of those working particularly in the informal economy, the majority of whom are women.

**Guest of Honour,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to assure you of ILO's unwavering support to you all in making decent work a reality in Tanzania and in ensuring that social security addresses the priority needs of all working men and women in the country, whether in the formal or in the informal economy.

I wish you all a very pleasant International Workers' Day.

Asanteni kwa kunisikiliza.
