
Ms Tonia Kandiero,
ADB Group Resident Representative for Tanzania,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Kandiero, please allow me, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to express my gratitude for this opportunity of signing with you today, two Loan Agreements, Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition And Rural Finance Programme (MIVARFP) and Alternative Learning And Skills
Development Project, Phase II (ALSD II), which the Africa Development Bank Group through Africa Development Fund (ADF) will extend to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania financial assistance of a loan amounting to USD 82.50 Million (est. TZS 133.79 Billion)

Indeed, the Government appreciates the Africa Development Bank Group support which has come at a time when the Government is in critical need of such assistance. This event, once again, demonstrates the important role that the African Development Bank Group, AfDB plays in the social and economic development in Tanzania. I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and the people of Tanzania, to express our gratitude for the continued support provided by the Africa Development Bank Group, AfDB for social and economic development in Tanzania.
MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE, VALUE ADDITION AND RURAL FINANCE PROGRAMME (MIVARFP)

*Ladies and Gentlemen,* The overall cost of the programme is USD 158.235 million with USD 60 million *(est. TZS 97.30 Billion)* being financed by the Africa Development Bank Group loan. The programme will be financed by the Bank in parallel with IFAD and AGRA as follows: IFAD (USD 91.0 million—loan agreement already signed), AGRA (USD 7.3 million). The rest of the programme cost (UA 3.45 million equivalent to USD 5.175 Million) will be met through the contributions of GoT/Districts (UA 2.08 million equivalent to USD 3.12 Million), beneficiaries (UA 0.11 equivalent to USD 0.165 Million) and others, such as the Financial Sector Deepening Trust in the case of Rural Finance (UA 1.26 million equivalent to USD 1.89 Million).

*Ladies and Gentlemen,* the overall Programme comprises three major components namely:

1. Marketing Infrastructure and Systems Development
2. Rural Finance;
3. Programme Coordination and Management
ADF will finance the Marketing Infrastructure Development and Value Addition aspects of Component 1 and part of Component 3; while IFAD and AGRA will support the producer empowerment and market linkages activities of Component 1, all of Component 2 and part of Component 3.

**DALTERNATIVE LEARNING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, PHASE II (ALSD II)**

*Ladies and Gentlemen,* The total cost of the project is estimated at USD 31.53 million of which USD 22.5 Million *(est. TZS 36.49 Billion)* is an ADF loan, USD 6.72 Million from BADEA and USD 2.31 Million is a government contribution.

The project consists of two components. Component 1 will provide further support to government efforts to:-
(i) Provide alternative learning to out of school youth – including those with special needs - who had never enrolled or dropped out before completion of basic education;

(ii) Increase access of the youth (men and women) to quality demand driven skills development in various trades including emerging and growth-oriented enterprises and;

(iii) Improve the capacity of training institutions to develop and deliver competency based skills training.

Component 2 aims at strengthening the capacity of national institutions directly involved in skills development especially for young people. These include:-

(i) **Karume Institute of Science and Technology**: This institution will provide instructors on engineering related trades to the Skills Development Centres (SDCs).
(ii) **Zanzibar Institute for Tourism Development:** will provide instructors to Skills Development Centres on tourism related courses, broker professional attachments with the private sector for trainees.

(iii) **Zanzibar Labour Commission:** The Labour Commission will spearhead an assessment of the current labour legislation and policy and recommend reviews if necessary.

**Ms. Tonia,** the preparation of these Loans has involved many people and long hours of hard work to discuss and negotiate various aspects and provision of both the Loans that we have just signed.

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, allow me to thank you personally for your efforts in ensuring that the process was concluded in time. I would also want to thank all other people who were involved in the process who worked so hard in order to make it possible for this agreement to be signed today. I would urge you to sustain that spirit.
Finally let me conclude by re-affirming the Government’s commitment to sustaining reforms in order to achieve the MKUKUTA and MKUZA objectives. Ensuring Expansion of Quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education, and Adult, Non-Formal and Continuing Education and the Kilimo Kwanza initiative. Further, I also want to reassure you of our continued commitment towards strengthening the partnership and friendly relationship between Tanzania and the African Development Bank Group.

Thank you all once again for your kind attention.