



**STATEMENT BY MR. WELLINGTON CHIBEBE, DIRECTOR, ILO COUNTRY
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, KENYA, RWANDA,
UGANDA AND BURUNDI**

**During the Occasion of marking the
World Day for Safety and Health at Work
Held At Samora Machel Grounds, Iringa**

TANZANIA

ON

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

(DRAFT)

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
Mr. Eric Shitindi Permanent Secretary, PMO, Labour, Employment, youth, Parliament
affairs and persons with Disability
Ms. Amina Juma Masenza –Regional Commissioner, Iringa Region.
Mama Hadija Mwenda- Chief Executive, OSHA
Dr Aggrey Mlimuka, -Executive Director , ATE
Dr. Yahya K. Msigwa, Secretary General, TUCTA
Workers and Employers.
Media corps,
Protocol observed
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Hon. Guest of honour and invited Guests,

On behalf of the Director General of the ILO, Mr. Guy Ryder, our Regional Director, Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, and on my own behalf, I bring you fraternal greetings of the International Labour Office in marking the World Day for Safety and Health at Work with the theme "Generation safe and healthy". It is a day upon which governments, employers and workers the world over, recommit to action to prevent workplace illness and injuries, ensuring that we fortify occupational safety and health as one of the cornerstones of our broader goal of promoting decent work.

Some 2.78 million workers continue to die each year from work related injuries and illnesses, with majority (2.4m) from work related diseases. This toll on human lives, from workplace accidents and injuries today, is unacceptable and entirely avoidable – let's act together to make a difference.

This year, we are targeting at improving the safety and health of young workers and end child labour. The campaign aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025. It is also targeted at promoting decent youth employment and in order to contribute to efforts aimed at combatting hazardous child labour. To achieve this, we require concerted and integrated efforts from all of us.

Hon. Guest of honour and invited Guests,

Many young people in countries across the world, often work unacceptably long hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements and youth, particularly in developing countries, represent the bulk of the underemployed and those working in the informal economy both in rural and urban areas.

Subjecting youth to hazardous work at adolescence, can create huge educational, physical, psychological, and social barriers – that impede the young person from competing successfully for decent jobs in the future.

In Tanzania young people aged 15 - 35 years make up more than one third of the total population and around 82% of the economically active youth are in vulnerable employment, with 94% of them based in rural areas (ILFS 2014).

Hon. Guest of honour and invited Guests,

Some facts about youth in the world:

The global youth unemployment rate rose slightly in 2017, reaching 13.1 per cent, with 70.9 million youth unemployed compared to the crisis peak figure of 76.7 million in 2009 (ILO WESO 2018). In Tanzania the national overall rate is estimated at 10.3% and among the youth relatively high at 11.7%.

Further, 541 million young workers (15-24) - which includes 37 million children in hazardous child labour - account for more than 15 per cent of the world's labour force and suffer up to a 40 per cent higher rate of non-fatal occupational injuries than adult workers above 25.

In developing countries, 16.7 per cent of young workers live on income below the extreme poverty threshold of US\$1.90 a day, as they work in the informal economy and globally, three out of four employed young women and men are in informal employment, compared to three in five for adults (ILO WESO 2018).

In Tanzania, according to a FinScope Tanzania study (2013), about 4.3 million Tanzanians are engaged in the informal sector as their main economic activity, which is equivalent to 22 percent of total employed persons. The risks to young people must therefore be reduced to acceptable levels; a task for employers, parents, policy-makers, and the young people themselves.

Many factors can increase youth vulnerability to OSH risks, such as their physical and psychological stage of development, lack of skills and work experience and training, limited awareness of work-related hazards and a lack of bargaining power that can lead young workers to accept dangerous tasks or jobs with poor working conditions. Higher levels of education tend to provide stable transition to decent employment.

Hon. Guest of honour and invited Guests,

Several different kinds of hazards can exist in every workplace, with various consequences for the safety and health of young workers. These include -

Safety hazards e.g. working at height; using dangerous machinery, equipment or tools; working with flammable or explosive substances, work on high structures, under water, underground, and work with toxic chemicals e.g. in agriculture. Physical hazards include exposure to different physical agents that can be harmful to health, such as noise, vibration, lighting, extreme temperatures (both high and low) and radiation.

Others include Biological hazards (e.g. exposure to bacteria, parasites, viruses, and dangerous animals, insects and plants) and Chemical hazards (e.g. exposure to gases, dusts, fumes, vapours and liquids – pesticides and fertilisers are found in agriculture; paints and solvents in manufacturing).

An effective response to the challenge of improving OSH for young workers should, therefore, focus on the following areas, among others:

“Safe work is decent work”. Employers should ensure that machinery, equipment, premises, and processes under their control, are safe for all workers, and without risk to the health not only of their young employees, but also to themselves.

The workers, and especially the youth workers, have to observe laws, rules and regulations that would lead to lower accident rates, and fewer work-related health problems.

Those young workers at risk should be identified, as they often work behind closed doors, in the informal economy or domestic service or out on the farms. In Africa, it is estimated that an average of 83% of all working children are in the agriculture sector whereas in Tanzania it is estimated that About 4.2 million children, aged 5 - 17 are engaged in child labour, and nearly 92% of them are engaged in the agriculture sector.

We acknowledge the government’s efforts and of all other stakeholders’ in combating the scourge in various sectors in the country, including the revision of the National Child Labour Action Plan (NAP).

Developing, updating and implementing laws, regulations, policies and guidelines to better protect the safety and health of young workers - ILO Convention No. 187 calls for governments, in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations, to formulate a national policy to promote basic OSH principles.

Improving the collection and analysis of data and information on OSH and young workers - is critical for the identification of workplace hazards, hazardous sectors and vulnerable groups of

workers also essential for the development of preventive measures tailored to such workers.

Preparation of list of hazardous work. Such lists of work that is to be prohibited to young people under 18. We commend OSHA for continuing to identify, prepare the lists and working on such areas.

Awareness raising and integrating OSH into general education curricula and VET programmes should be given a priority. – to help communities, schools, VETC, and organizations understand relevant laws and regulations, requirements, recognize the areas where young workers need special protection, and guiding youth themselves on safety and health at work.

Hon. Guest of honour and invited Guests,

We commend Tanzania, under the able leadership of H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli for not only on its fuller participation in the Organization's standard-setting exercises but also in being at the forefront in the ratification and implementation of some of the ILO conventions including all the 8 core conventions.

It is worthy noting the ongoing government's efforts and commitment to ratify ILO Conventions on occupational safety and health numbers 155, 161, 167, 122 amongst others, which, we believe, will add impetus to the national endeavour to create safer and more decent jobs for the youth.

Further, we note that the national OSH policy, which is under review, sights youth as among the vulnerable groups and insists on implementing awareness raising programmes in SMEs and the informal sector, and ensuring that education and training on issues related to OHS is provided to employers, workers and community at large.

The establishment of the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) in 2015, under the Workers' Compensation Act 2008, is another positive step towards improved workers, welfare and especially in compensating workers (including young workers), to the tune of T. Shs. 2.52bn, who have suffered occupational injuries, diseases or death in the course of their employment.

The Tanzania's Second Five Year Development Plan, 2016/17-2020/21 with the theme "Nurturing Industrialization for Economic Transformation and Human Development" is a milestone in attaining Vision 2025 goals and objectives to enhance transforming Tanzania into a Semi- industrialized, Middle Income Country. We note with interest the inclusion of young workers as among the strategic priority interventions during implementation.

These efforts will not only enhance performance of OSH at national and at enterprise levels but also support growth across different sectors of the economy as the goal of improving OSH for young workers can only be achieved through the combined efforts of many different actors.

I wish to assure you of the ILO's fuller collaboration and support in embedding the international labour standards into the fabric of Tanzania's regulatory framework of occupational health and safety.

Let us all join in promoting OSH culture and improve the safety and health of the young workers, all workers, save lives and end child labour.

I wish you a happy world Day for safety and health at the workplace!.

Thank you for your attention.
