

**REMARKS BY THE ILO DIRECTOR DURING THE PLANTING OF
100 TREES AS PART OF ILO CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

DODOMA, 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

Guest of Honour, His Excellency The Prime Minister of United Republic of Tanzania, Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa

Mme Jenhista Mhagama, M. P., Minister of State, Prime Ministers' Office, Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Deputy Ministers Present

Honourable Members of Parliament

Permanent Secretary, PMO –LEYD and all others present,

Regional Commissioner, Dodoma, Dr Bilinith Mahenge

District Commissioners present

Dr Aggrey Mlimuka, Executive Director, Association of Tanzanian Employers

Dr Yahya Msigwa, secretary General, Tarde Union Confederation of Tanzania

Media corps

All protocols observed

Let me begin by expressing my profound happiness, on behalf of the ILO, for being part of this big gathering to celebrate the 100th birthday of the International Labour Organisation and to our Guest of Honor for agreeing to be in our midst. Guest of Honor, the ILO was born 100 years ago, during a time of upheaval, after the 1st World War.

It was during this time that workers rose up to demand fair treatment and dignity, adequate wages, an eight-hour working day and freedom of association. Since Day 1, the ILO's tripartite governance model has been a source of strength and legitimacy. Through it, workers, employers, and governments come together through dialogue, for shared solutions.

Since then, through conflict and peace, democracy and dictatorship, decolonization and the Cold War, globalization and turbulence, the ILO has continued to play a central role in the struggle for social progress. In recent years, the ILO has been at the forefront of efforts to build a fair globalization process that expands opportunities, reduce inequalities, and answers people's demands for the opportunity for decent work. This is a concept which is firmly embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Tanzania, ILO advocates for an employment centred development strategy, a comprehensive package of social safety nets and social transfers for the vulnerable. All this while enhancing institutional capacities, laws, regulations and practices to address structural causes of decent work deficits. The ILO continues to work with the Government of Tanzania and our social partners – workers' and employers' organizations to enhance freedom of association, social dialogue, entrepreneurship, skills development, ending child labour, among others.

Examples of some areas of activity are:

- Revising the national employment policy.
- Developing and publishing a user-friendly popular version of labour laws that is currently being used by SMEs.
- Formulating various employment-related policies and capacity building on skills development and recognition of skills acquired through informal learning.
- Worked with the government to develop National Guidelines for work based learning programme on Apprenticeship and Internship were developed and

launched in September 2017 in Dodoma by H.E. Kassim Majaliwa, PM – URT.

- And strengthening the capacity of the statutory tripartite social dialogue bodies.

Guest of Honour, as we celebrate this big day, I am sure we are all aware that climate change and environmental degradation are among the greatest challenges of our times. There is a growing sense of urgency about what is happening, and increasing demands for concrete action. Climate change and environmental degradation are not the only challenges facing us in shaping a just and sustainable future of work.

The ILO's own research says that a green transition could create millions of new jobs. Of course, a just and inclusive transition to a green economy will not happen by default. Everything depends on what we do. It requires effective policies, institutions and action. This is one of the reasons why we have together with the constituents chosen to commemorate this day with the planting of 100 trees in the new capital city.

We hope that the trees that will be planted today will serve as a constant reminder not only of the landmark of reaching 100 years, but also for our roles and obligations to future generations and posterity.

As we mark the centenary here today, we remain grateful to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and social partners for the warmth and close collaboration and support that they provided to the office's work and programme. Indeed, we cannot forget to mention that Tanzania has hosted the ILO since July 1962, and it is from this base that we serve other East Africa countries. We also would like to appreciate the visionary government which provided land from which ILO constructed its own office since 2006.

Guest of Honour, ladies and gentleman, the pursuit of social justice that gave birth to ILO 100 years ago remains the same conviction and a major goal today, and in the immediate future. As ILO looks forward to its second century, we hope to continue to being the leading voice and authority in issues to do with employment and labour.

Before I conclude, I would like to commend the government of URT and social partners for the active collaboration we have had in the areas of promoting social dialogue through the LESCO in mainland Tanzania and the LAB in Zanzibar, development of social security policies and regulations, labour law reforms and regulations, as well as on youth employment and skills development. I hope that the Decent Work Country Programme that has been developed with the active participation of social partners will be finalized and signed soon, and , which will pave way for the implementation of some of the instruments such as the National Employment Policy, Social Protection Policy among others.

I thank you.