

**CONFEDERATION OF TANZANIA INDUSTRIES  
(CTI)**

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY MR. CHRISTOPHER GACHUMA,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE MWANZA OUTREACH ON THE SMEs  
TRAINING SEMINAR ON "TAX EDUCATION AND EFFECTS OF  
HIV/AIDS AT THE WORKPLACE"**

**NEW MWANZA HOTEL  
THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

Hon Daniel Ole Njoolay, Regional Commissioner, Mwanza

Members of CTI

Resource Persons,

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), both at the Head Office and Mwanza Outreach office and my own behalf.

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation and honour to you sir, for accepting our invitation to open this SMEs training seminar. Your acceptance and presence to this seminar, despite your tight schedule

shows how you really value the SMEs development in this country. It also promotes the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

**Honourable Regional Commissioner,**

Our seminar focuses mainly on two issues which adversely affect business performance in our country particularly SMEs. These are Tax and tax procedures and effects of HIV/AIDS at work places. The main objective of this seminar is to bring awareness to the SMEs on taxes and tax procedures in order to increase tax compliances. On the other hand HIV/AIDS has been chosen in order to sensitise the employers, employees and the public at large on the impact of HIV/AIDS at workplaces.

**Honourable Regional Commissioner**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

SMEs development has been constrained by a number of factors such as high and multiple taxes. Despite the effort taken by the Government to abolish nuisance taxes, yet taxation issue has remained one of major problems adversely affecting SMEs development. Complicated tax procedures and low transparency coupled with poor information dissemination especially in the new modernisation system within TRA result into low tax compliance, corruption and little government revenue. It is my hope that

participants will get satisfactory answers to their outstanding tax problems from this seminar.

### **Honourable Regional Commissioner**

HIV/AIDS at work places affects all types of people especially the economically active group, thus it has a negative social and economic impact to the performance of any enterprise.

The Confederation of Tanzania Industries constituted a Standing Committee on SMEs whose aim is among other things to champion the development of SMEs. We believe SMEs is a catalyst for economic growth and poverty alleviation. CTI conducted two studies among others on SMEs and on HIV/AIDS.

The study on HIV/AIDS revealed that many enterprises were losing experienced and economically active groups due to HIV/AIDS. It also results into decline in productivity. Although the problem exists in various companies, very few of them had mechanisms or guidelines in place to deal with HIV/AIDS cases at work places. Some companies could start stigmatisation to the affected people or termination of their employment, which aggravate the problem.

**Hon Regional Commissioner,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I think I should not deliver a long speech which might pre-empt the resource persons. Let me avail enough time to them to give us what they have prepared for us. May I take this opportunity to urge that, it is high time for non-members of CTI to join the organisation in order to strengthen the voice of industry to manufacturers as well as to benefit from services rendered by CTI. It is a credible and strong lobby organisation.

**Honourable Regional Commissioner,**

I once again thank you for your acceptance and presence to be with us today. I now have the honour to welcome you, Sir, to make your opening remarks and to officially open the seminar.

Thank you for listening.