

## Welcome Speech During The Launch of The Conference

*Ms. Mugabe A. Mtani*  
*Acting Chairman of the Governing Council for Institute of*  
*Rural Development Planning*  
*IRDP, Dodoma-Tanzania*

Honourable Deputy Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Hon. Eng. Stella Manyanya (MP); The Lord Mayor of Dodoma City Council, Honourable Prof. Davis Mwamfupe; Dodoma City Director, Mr. Godwin Kunambi; Representative of the members of IRDP Governing Council, Prof. Godwin Mjema; Acting Rector, Prof. Hozen K. Mayaya; Key note speakers; Distinguished Delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

I would like to thank the Almighty God for granting us opportunity to come together and write down another page of IRDP and the planning cadre's history. Also I would like to thank you distinguished guests Deputy Minister for Industry, Trade, and Investment Hon. Eng. Stella Manyanya (MP), the Lord Mayor of Dodoma Municipal Council Honourable Prof. Davis Mwamfupe, The Municipal Director for Dodoma Municipal Council Mr. Godwin Kunambi just to mention but a few, for accepting our invitation.

Honorable Guest of Honour please allows me to convey my heat felt appreciation to the Tanzanian Government for the valuable support to IRDP since its establishment in 1980. The support IRDP has been receiving from the Government has enabled it to continue delivering to the expectation, which is supporting growth in rural areas.

Honorable Guest of Honour, let me mention few of the benefits recently received from the Government of Tanzania, that have expanded the capacity of IRDP to deliver to her expectation. First; progressively our academic members of staff have been attaining training at higher levels to enable them to become more competent in training, research and consultancies. Second; the government has been providing IRDP necessary support to enable the development of training infrastructures at the Institute. At current the Institute is in preparatory stages to build Girls Hostel here at the Main Campus by support from the Government.

Third; IRDP has been increasing the number of long term programs herewith the support from various development partners. Fourth; it was through Government support IRDP was able to establish a training centre in the Lake zone in 2011. The establishment of the Lake Zone Centre is fulfilling the need of the Act of establishment which tasks the Institute to establish zonal centers in the mission of taking products and services closer to stakeholders.

I am glad to inform you that, the centre which started with only one programme as of today has four programmes. These are Certificate in Rural Developing Planning (CRP), Diploma in Development Planning (DPP), Bachelor Degree in Regional Development Planning (BDR) and Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management (PGDPPM). Efforts are under way to establish other programme in the Lake Zone Centre.

Moreover, as we sit down together to listen presentations and speeches in this International Conference; we should also remember that this event has made possible through the support of the Tanzanian Government. To wind up my speech I would

like to assure the Minister of Finance and Planning that IRDP is remaining committed to implement her mandates most of them to promote growth in rural regions. At this period where the National is embarking on Industrialization Strategy, it is the role of IRDP to advice on how the Rural Population who makes the majority in Global South are not excluded. International Cooperation among institutions, academicians, researches, practitioners and policy makers is very important especially in sharing skills and experience which IRDP and the Tanzanian Government.

Dear Participants, with these few remarks I once again thank you the guests of honour for accepting our invitation. May I now invite the Guest of Honour Honourable Deputy Minister for Industry, Trade, and Investment to deliver her speech and then launch the International Conference on Planning and Development of 2018; under the theme “*Towards Industrialization in the Global South: Making Rural Regions Inclusive*”.

Honourable Deputy Minister, Welcome!