**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. GODFREY NYAISA, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY (BRELA), IN THE ARIPO-WIPO TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAM FOR EASTERN AFRICA IP HUB HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA, 04TH NOVEMBER, 2024.**

Professor William Anangisye, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam,

Ms. Doreen Sinare, Chief Executive Officer from the Copyright Office of Tanzania (COSOTA),

Ms. Mtumwa Ameir, Chief Executive Officer from the Copyright Institute of Zanzibar (COSOZA),

Ms. Mariia Bychkovska – Project Specialist from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),

Mr. Outle Rapuleng – Head, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Academy,

Deputy Vice Chancellors from the University of Dar es Salaam, here present,

Mr. Jacob Holland, Project Consultant

Officials from the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA),

Dear Experts, Trainers and Participants,

Representatives from the University of Dar es Salaam,

Members of the Press here present,

Ladies and gentlemen.

I acknowledge the presence of Honourable Judges and Officials from the Judiciary of Tanzania who are participating as Trainees, we appreciate your dedication in fostering Intellectual Property development in the country.

I greet you all in the name of the United Republic of Tanzania!

(We respond - “KAZI IENDELEE”)

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First and foremost, I would like to thank God Almighty for his mercy, as he enabled us to meet and converge here today. On my behalf and on behalf of the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), allow me to pay tribute to our Chief Guest, Professor William Anangisye, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, our host, who has considered the importance of this initiative and its relevance to the United Republic of Tanzania and Africa, and has made time to grace the occasion in person despite his very tight schedule. We are also grateful for your willingness to host this Training of Trainers Program, and later the Eastern Africa Intellectual Property Hub here at the University of Dar es Salaam. Your support and commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration in Intellectual Property is truly commendable and highly appreciated. We believe that the IP Hub will bring many opportunities to students, researchers, SMEs, innovators, and the wider community at large. Asante sana Prof.

It should also be noted that, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is hosting the Master of Intellectual Property (MIP) program, which is implemented in collaboration with ARIPO, BRELA and WIPO, where the 4th Cohort has been admitted to pursue this indispensable Program. The Program has a great contribution in creating a pool of IP experts in the country and the African region at large.

I would also like to thank my fellow CEOs and representatives from our sister Organizations from Tanzania Mainland (COSOTA), and Zanzibar (BPRA na COSOZA. I understand you are participating in this Program as Trainees; however, you have always been supportive and available for IP related initiatives in the country, this is highly appreciated. Asanteni sana!

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to exceptionally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO, for his ever-ending support and cooperation with the United Republic of Tanzania in the wake to fostering Innovation and Intellectual Property development. Through the WIPO Academy, WIPO has been providing assistance and support, particularly capacity building to a cross-section of IP stakeholders in the country including IP officials, the academia, researchers, to mention just a few. Please (WIPO representatives) convey our gratitude to Director General Tang, Director Sheriff Saadallah from the WIPO Academy, and the whole Team at WIPO for what you are doing to our country and Africa as a whole, particularly for supporting this initiative and agreeing to collaborate with ARIPO, BRELA and the University of Dar es Salaam to establish the IP Hub in Tanzania.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions and efforts of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) for selecting Tanzania to host this Training of Trainers Program and the Eastern African IP Hub. Truly, this is a great honour, taking into consideration that the initiative could have been hosted elsewhere. Please convey to Director General Mr. Bemanya Twebaze, and the whole Team at ARIPO our sincere appreciation for this gesture.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am glad that today we have gathered here to continue with the second phase of this Program, which for the first time was conducted virtually in 2021. As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic disturbed the progress of this training, which halted for about three years.

Worth noting is that, through the period of tragedy, which caused a lot of suffering and affected the economy of the world, we learned the significance of utilizing IP tools to solve the challenges we are facing in our daily lives. It was through IP tools; for example, in our country, Research and Development Institutions introduced came up with effective herbal medicines to combat COVID-19.

Just to mention a few, for instance, we saw an introduction of medicines called ‘**COVIDOL’** from the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development (TIRDO), ‘**NIMCAFE’** from the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), ‘**UZIMA’** from the University of Dar es Salaam, and many more. The above-mentioned herbal syrups, among others, contain medicinal components that have the ability to heal respiratory system problems, control cardiac arrest, the ability to prevent and control heart attack and heart swelling, to regulate blood pressure, the ability to remove cholesterol from blood vessels, and the ability to control body temperature, which causes high fever. All the above-stated conditions have a direct linkage with COVID-19.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are aware, BRELA, among other roles, is responsible for registration of trade and service marks and grant of patents and has since 2018 started providing all its services through an Online Registration System (ORS), which is interfaced with the WIPO Intellectual Property Automated System (IPAS) used for processing all IP applications. The interface of the two systems was done for ease of receiving, processing, and sending feedbacks to clients in respect of searches and all applications.

This well-established online system infrastructure, has enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, while contributing to an improved business environment in the country. Now, we are proud to have the best system, which lead to minimal human intervention and increased efficiency in our activities.

In the same vein, BRELA uses the ARIPO MS-Module which is an integration of IPAS and ARIPO system to facilitate real-time receiving of ARIPO applications which designate Tanzania for protection. This has simplified processing of ARIPO applications, which has in-turn improved processing of ARIPO filings leading to an increase of ARIPO designations to Tanzania.

You will appreciate that, policy and legal frameworks play a major role in shaping the IP infrastructure of any country. In order for Tanzania to achieve its economic development through utilization of Intellectual Property Assets, the government has endeavoured to put in place a national intellectual property policy for proper and effective coordination of intellectual property; promote innovation and creativity through supporting R&D and encouraging entrepreneurship. The Policy is at an advanced stage of being finalized.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before I conclude, allow me to emphasize the importance of this Training of Trainers and to urge all of you to participate and engage fully in order to make the Program successful and productive for your future endeavours as you embark on becoming Experts and Trainers of IP in our Region and beyond.

With these few remarks**,** I affirm WIPO’s support for Tanzania and particularly for this ToT program and look forward to more fruitful collaborations with WIPO.

I now have a singular honour to welcome our Chief Guest, Professor William Anangisye to address this August audience and officially open ARIPO-WIPO Training of Trainers Program for Eastern Africa IP Hub - Tanzania.

**Prof. karibu sana!**

**AHSANTENI!**