

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY (BRELA) AT HIGH LEVEL MEETING FOR SENSITIZATION MISSION ON THE ARUSHA PROTOCOL ON THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2022.

Hon. Amos Makala, the Dar es salaam Regional Commissioner,

Mr BemayaTwebaze, the Director General of African Regional Intellectual Property Organization- ARIPO,

Ms. Mariam Jecha, the Chief Executive Officer Zanzibar Business and Property Registration Agency (BPRA)

Ms Doreen Sinare, the Chief Executive officer Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA)

Mr. Twalib Njohole, the Registrar of Plant Breeders Rights

Ms. Asya Filfil, The Registrar of Plants Breeders Rights Zanzibar, Delegation of ARIPO,

Resource persons,

Distinguished participants,

Invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I take this opportunity to extend to extend our special appreciation, welcome and thank **Mr. Bemanya Twebaze** the Director General of African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) for selecting Tanzania

among other Member State of ARIPO to benefit from sensitization Mission on the Arusha Protocol on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. **Mr Director General** despite of your tight schedules you have managed to participant in this important and historical event of the High-level Sensitization Mission on the Arusha Protocol on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, **AHSANTE SANA**

I am aware also resource person from ARIPO are here extending their practical, socio-economic and legal Intellectual Property knowledge on the Arusha Protocol to our key stakeholders, you are warmly welcome to Tanzania and particularly the city of Dar es Salaam, if you have more time it will be great to visit some areas of Dar es salaam and historical slave town of Bagamoyo which is approximately 70 Km from the City Centre, **KARIBUNI SANA.**

Ladies and Gentlemen

BRELA as a National IP Office in the Country, we do administer Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) including registration, post registration, protection and promotion of Trade and Service Marks, Patents, Utility Models, Industrial Designs and Geographical indication by receiving local, regional and international applications. However, on the current financial year much funds have been located to sensitize our stakeholders particularly in Higher Learning Institutions, R&D Institutions and SMEs on the benefits of using IPR on branding products and value chain.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear participant, BRELA is seriously committed to promote IPR in the country especially on the increase of granted Patents and Utility Models in the country. On this financial year one of our major plan is to conduct massive seminars, workshops and sensitization programs to R&D Institution particularly in universities across the country, same activities will be conducted to SMEs.

Furthermore, I have to acknowledge that much effort has to be done by engaging IP stakeholders to make sure that the numbers of IPR are increased from the current status, and this can only be done by massive awareness sensitization programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

BRELA has since 2018 started offering all services through Online Registration System (ORS) a system which on part of Industrial Property has been integrated with IPAS for ease of receiving and processing Patents, Trade and Services Marks applications and conducting searches. The ORS has simplified accessibility of BRELA services to the business community and all users of BRELA services. Currently, there is ongoing redesigning of ORS system to make it more user friendly and add more online services to our clients.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The aim of this Sensitization Mission to Tanzania is to create more awareness on the Arusha Protocol on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. At this Juncture, let me express my sincere appreciation to the Director General **Mr. Bemanya Twebaze** for making sure that all ARIPO Protocols are coming into force.

On 22nd August, 2022, IP key Stakeholders in Tanzania participated in a National Consultative meeting on the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New varieties of Plants. The consultative meeting came up with some observation which were shared with ARIPO and this was in regard to the applicability of Article 15 and Regulation 22 of the Arusha Protocol versus our National law. I am very confident through this meeting conclusion will be reached on the said observations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am well assured that; this Sensitization Mission on the Arusha Protocol today will act as a catalyst to open another chapter for more involvement on protection of IPR for Agriculture sector by making sure in the near future Tanzania ratify this very important Protocol which began 2015 when our country was selected as a site for hosting the meeting in our famous Tourist Region of Arusha once named the Geneva of Africa by the former President of United States of Africa Mr. Bill Clinton.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With these few remarks **Mr. Director General** I affirm ARIPO's Support to Tanzania and particularly to this Sensitization Mission and wish for more fruitful arrangement with ARIPO.

Last but not least I also like to wish all participants a constructive deliberation

I Thank you for your attention.

AHSANTENI SANA