VOTE OF THANKS BY VALERIAN SILAYO

The Guest of Honour,
Hon. Nazir Karamagi (MP), Minister for Energy and Minerals
The Vice Chancellor, SUA,
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee
Heads of Departments,
Invited Guests,
Workshop participants
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and Workshop Participants I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Mr. Guest of Honour for accepting our invitation to address this important Workshop. The fact that you have a very busy schedule and yet accept our invitation is a clear testimony of the importance you accord to issues of development of Tanzania, particularly those concerning energy.

Mr. Guest of Honour, in your speech, you have reminded us of energy problems facing this nation, including:

   i) Poor families spending a 1/4 of their income on conventional cooking fuel
   ii) Tremendous loss of our forest, in search of cooking fuel among others, just to say the least.

Mr. Guest of Honour, while we admit that these are very alarming issues for a developing nation like Tanzania, their severity can be minimized by adopting the use of renewable energy technologies, including solar cooking, which is the theme of this workshop.

In your speech, Mr. Guest of Honour, you have enlightened us that use of solar ovens can reduce fuel wood consumption to a great extent. This sounds too good and encouraging. It is therefore our anticipation that at the end of this workshop we shall all strive to gather the knowledge of construction and use of solar cookers in both theory and practical terms.

Mr. Guest of Honour, your speech has made us understand that use of solar power is one of the top agenda in your Ministry, in line with the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty - acronym - (MKUKUTA). From this we anticipate that deliberations of this workshop will be implemented with all the necessary support of the Government.

Mr. Guest of Honour, with these few remarks let me once again thank you very much for coming to officiate this important workshop. We wish you a very pleasant day. Thank you very much.