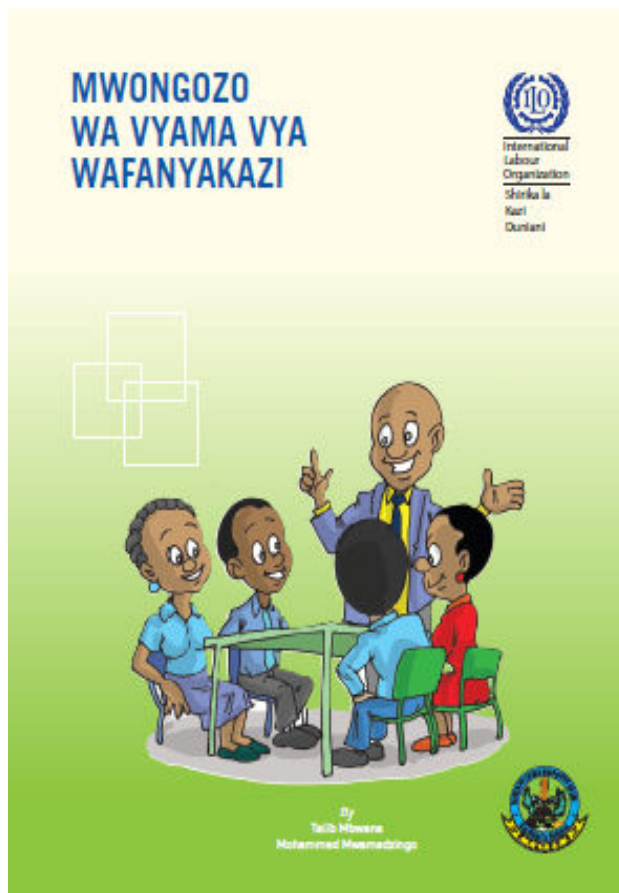




**Goodwill message by
Honourable Fackson Shamenda,
Immediate Former Minister of
Labour and Social Security of the
Republic of Zambia, and
Former President of the
ICFTU and ZCTU (Zambia)**

Book launch

**Organized by
East African Trade Union
Confederation (EATUC)
*Tuesday, 30 August 2016
at the Sarova Stanley Hotel,
Nairobi, Kenya***

Dear Colleagues. Thank you for your kind welcome.

I would like to acknowledge the support from our brothers and sisters from Kenya and thank them for allowing us to launch this ground breaking trade union guide in Kiswahili entitled "Mwongozo wa Vyama vya Wafanyakazi".

To express my understanding of the relevance of the book we are launching today, I would like to start my remarks by a quotation cited in the preface of same book (on page iv):

"... Trade Unions is a tool used by the workers themselves to champion their issues. The authors of this book have tried to explain this important tool to workers and other development partners and, in addition, they have endeavoured to articulate other issues relating to work, good governance and many cross-cutting issues in the world of work....

We recommend to all those who need basic education on trade unionism to make an effort of acquiring this book for a better understanding of management and operations of trade unions."

Maria Helena André, Director, Bureau for Workers' Activities, Geneva, Switzerland.

I feel privileged and honoured to be among the first people to have had the opportunity to receive this book and express my honest opinion on its relevance to the trade union movement, especially in the Kiswahili speaking countries.

We need to note that Kiswahili is spoken by over 100 million people in East Africa, some countries in Central and Southern Africa as well in the Arab Peninsula. It was with great excitement that I was asked to make remarks about the book. I am happy that that I know both authors pretty well.

The profile of the authors (contained at the back of the book) show that between them, I can count some 60 years of trade union involvement and high level engagement in workers education in Africa. It is therefore much gratifying to note that they have used their time and experience so wisely and unselfishly by delivering a product that is intended to further enhance the appreciation of probably the most important subject to trade union leaders and activists.

Colleagues and friends;

This guide on management of trade unions provides a basic understanding of how workers' organizations operate. It is especially targeted at trade union members and their leaders who, undoubtedly, need to keep abreast with new trends in social and economic development. A more and better informed trade union movement is desirable not only to enable them fully engage employers, governments and international organisations on key issues affecting workers and their communities, but also to ensure that their views are heard and listened to.

I see this book as a precursor and complementary to the other initiatives of the trade union movement in our continent. For instance, as an introductory educational manual, I think this book will enable many of our grass-root members, new and younger trade union generation and leaders to further appreciate the development initiatives that we have discussed at our regional workshop today, with respect to regional integration in Africa.

I understand the authors benefited immensely from comments by trade union students who attended courses at the Tom Mboya Labour College in Kisumu. I wish to join Brothers Mbwana and Mwamadzingo in thanking the course students to endorse, draft and re-draft many earlier versions of the book. The support from national centres from Kenya, Zanzibar and Tanzania (especially the Tanzania Teacher Union) is also well appreciated.

Of course, the book would not have seen the light of day if it were not for the solid support from the joint-publishing institutions-Zanzibar Trade Union Congress (ZATUC) and the Bureau for Workers' Activities of the International Labour Organization (ILO/ACTRAV). I also wish to echo the support of the East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC).

Ladies and gentlemen;

I am sure you will all agree with me that it takes courage, sacrifice and determination to produce an intellectual product of this nature. This work involved deep commitment on their part and their respective families. I shall fail in my duties if, I do not personally, and on your behalf, sincerely and profusely thank our two colleagues for achieving this feat.

Thank you.