REMARKS BY MR. S. GESIMBA, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND TOURISM, AT THE FORMAL LAUNCHING OF THE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN TOURISM HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT HOLIDAY INN HOTEL DAR ES SALAAM.

Representatives from, Ministries of Industry and Trade (MIT), Ministries of Labour and Employment (MOLE), Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MOEVT)

Representatives from Embassies

ILO Country Director

Representatives from UN Agencies and Development Partners

Representatives from NACTE, VETA

Representatives from TUCTA, ATE

Executive Secretaries, TCT and HAT

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentleman

I am honored to be here today, to officiate the launching of the certified Apprenticeship training program in Hotel operations. Indeed this is an important event as it brings together efforts done by different institutions in addressing challenges that face hospitality industry in Tanzania, these includes: Public and Private sector; Responsible Ministries for Training and Labour; Development Partners; National and Vocational Training Authorities and Associations of Employers and Employees in Tanzania

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite many challenges we are all aware this sector has great economic potential in Tanzanian economy, as it contributes enormously in foreign exchange earnings,
economic growth and employment. Our country continued to experience steady performance of Tourism sector in the present decade, where by number of visitors increase from 770,376 in 2008 to about 1.12 million in 2013, and receipts increased from USD 1.3 billion in 2008 to USD 1.8 billion in 2013, respectively. It is obvious that we could have done better, if all the complementing factors could work simultaneously that is, the unique tourism attractions, destination market efforts and efficient hospitality service delivery; in that regard industrial skills training, such as Apprenticeship program is a prerequisite to this sector.

Thus, on behalf of the Tourism sector I would like to recognize the initiative done by Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) in addressing serious skills gaps in hospitality sub sector that increasingly exhibited by new graduates joining the labor market. This idea brought about the formalization of the traditional apprenticeship and institutionalization of the Apprenticeship program for the hospitality subsector in Tanzania. In my opinion this program will improve skills and service delivery to complement earlier mentioned factors for improved destination performance, in terms of numbers, receipts and visitors satisfaction.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

My deepest appreciation as well goes to Tanzania Confederation of Tourism (TCT) and Hotel Association of Tanzania (HAT), for encouraging hospitality stake holders in Dar-es -Salaam to recognize and participate in this program. On the other hand I would like to recognize the effort done by National college of Tourism (NCT) on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, in pioneering the formalization of this program by developing the curriculum which later was approved by NACTE, and became the first Apprenticeship Accredited program in Tanzania. For sustainability of this program, I am urging NCT to continue supervise, guide and administering this program and making sure its spread all over the country. In supporting all these efforts
the ministry will work hand in hand with you NCT, TCT, HAT and ILO, in bringing on board local government authorities and other hospitality service providers (registered/unregistered) all over the country to realize and participate in this program so as to improve the quality of service standards in Tanzania.

Moreover I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our development partners ILO, UNDAP and SECO who took the initiative of funding and provision of technical support of this program. Since we are in the piloting stage and our aim is for the program to spread all over the country, I would like to ask for your continuous collaboration for the sustainability of this program.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Last but not least, I would like to urge all institutions involved in this program including the Private Sector Associations to work in full commitment to achieve the set goal. Furthermore, I would like to recommend to Employees and Employers Associations, Education and Training Authorities, Ministry of Labour, to advocate the same program to all sectors of the economy so as to improve skills.

After those few remarks I declare that the certified Apprenticeship program in Hotel Operations is officially launched.

**Asanteni sana kwa kunisikiliza**