

**VOTE OF THANKS BY THE HON. MR JUSTICE DR. GERALD AM  
NDIKA, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, IJA AT  
THE OPENING OF THE INDUCTION COURSE FOR NEWLY  
APPOINTED JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT AT TIRC, KISUTU  
ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**My Lord, The Chief Justice of Tanzania, Prof. Ibrahim Hamis Juma**

**My Lord, The Principal Judge, Dr. Eliezer Mbuki Feleshi**

**My Lady, The Training Director, Judge Emeritus Rose Aggrey Teemba**

**My Lady, Judge in Charge, Dar es Salaam District Registry, Beatrice Mutungi**

**My Lord the Principal of IJA, Dr. Paul Kihwelo**

**Programme Facilitators**

**My Lords and My Ladies, Judges of the High Court (Our Most Valued Programme Participants)**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is my privilege to have been asked to move a vote of thanks on this occasion of opening of the induction programme for twelve newly appointed judges of the High Court.

On behalf of the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto, I extend a very heartfelt vote of thanks to My Lord the Chief Justice for gracing this event as the Guest of Honour. I wish to mention in particular my deep appreciation for the insightful and useful hints that My Lord the

Chief Justice has shared with us in his quite comprehensive speech. It is of note that the speech fleshed out the expectations that the Judiciary and the entire nation has to the newly appointed judges. I have no doubt that the speech has inspired all of us and set an appropriate stage, tone and trend for the conduct of the induction training.

To My Lord the Principal Judge, I am so thankful for your presence at this event despite your very busy schedule. I appreciate so much for your stewardship, support and vision particularly on the planning and arrangements for all the induction training programmes like this one. At IJA, we always rely on you not just for guidance and direction, but also for your inputs on minute details of our professional development programmes for the judiciary staff.

**My Lord the Chief Justice, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Most of us are aware that IJA is experienced in conducting and delivering this kind training programmes. Actually, at the beginning of this year we delivered one induction programme for newly appointed judges of the High Court in February and another in March for newly appointed Justices of Appeal. Nonetheless, an induction training like this one cannot happen overnight., the wheels to prepare for this programme only started rolling right after our most valued participants were appointed about two weeks ago. The preparation period may have been short but we have been quite fortunate to be backed by a team of very experienced, motivated and dedicated facilitators who

know their job and are result oriented. I am, therefore, most grateful to Judge Teemba, the Training Director, and all facilitators from the Judiciary and other institutions for accepting on a very short notice to organize and run the programme. They bring to the programme immense and unmatched practical experience and knowledge on diverse areas connected with or impacting on the administration of justice.

To the Management and Staff of IJA, I give my appreciation for the organization of the training and logistical support. I commend you all for going beyond your comfort zones to make appropriate arrangements for this induction training. I have no doubt that it will be a huge success.

May I join My Lords the Chief Justice and the Principal Judge to express felicitations to our most valued programme participants for being elevated to the High Court. There is no doubt that the appointments were well deserved and that each appointee brings to the Judiciary a unique experience.

Perhaps I should finish my remarks by giving a piece of advice to our most valued programme participants. This induction training is certainly an important opportunity for you to acquire and perfect your art, skill and craft of being a judge, which can be summed up as judgecraft. But in order to do so, I would urge you to unshackle yourselves from what may be called the arrogance of knowledge. Until your appointment as a Judge, you may have been a career judicial

officer or state counsel but do not assume that you will have necessarily an easy sailing as a Judge. What the famous American writer, Mark Twain, wrote of himself can carry the message home. He said thus:

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

There is no doubt that arrogance may make you feel powerful, intelligent, knowledgeable and experienced that you are ready to resolve any conceivable legal dispute. But that’s foolhardy. I would thus urge that for the entire duration of your training, you should be ready to learn and, where possible, to re-learn.

I believe that you will find the programme rewarding, refreshing and useful.

I wish each of you all the best in your ensuing career as a member of the higher bench in the country.

**I thank you all for your attention.**

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