



**Speaking notes for the launch of the
Tanzania Local Enterprise & Linkages Development Project**

by High Commissioner John Feakes

Friday 8th May 2015, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Mr Uledi Mussa, Permanent Secretary, Minister for Industry and Trade
Eng. Omari Bakari, Director General, SIDO
Mr. Jean Van Wetter, Country Director, VSO Tanzania
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning.

I am very pleased to be here today to launch this project with the Government of Tanzania and VSO.

- We are proud to be part of building opportunities for small and medium businesses to secure sub-contracts with major resource companies and their suppliers.

This project is new, but Australia's relationship with Tanzania on extractives is well established.

Australia and Tanzania share a long history of economic cooperation, and the extractives industry has been a major focus of this relationship.

- Over 20 Australian-listed companies are operating almost one hundred mining projects in Tanzania, with many more involved in grassroots and exploration projects.
- High profile Australian companies are joining the large number of international companies investing in gas exploration projects and are well represented in the mining services companies operating in Tanzania.

I commend the Government of Tanzania's efforts to increase growth in the extractives sector, and its vision in encouraging international investment to assist this growth.

- I also applaud Tanzania's commitment to the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative, which is critical to ensure that revenue generated through resource wealth is translated to credible gains on the ground.

Australia and Tanzania's partnership in the extractives sector includes support through the Australian aid program to strengthen Tanzania's enviable resource sector.

Across Africa, through our Extractives for Growth program, Australia has supported a wide range of activities designed to support improved resource governance. Australia, through our own particular experience and expertise, has a great deal to offer African countries seeking to develop their extractive sectors.

- In Tanzania, this has included participation in study tours to Australia to meet with government, academics and industry and learn from our own experience in implementing a successful and sustainable resource sector.
- We have also supported a number of Tanzanian students to pursue Masters and short courses in mining-related fields through the Australia Awards scholarship program.

While we are focused on improving governance, we are also looking to support initiatives to help ensure that extractive-affected communities reap a fair share of the resource sector's many benefits.

We want to be part of making local mining communities and economies more resilient, and we want to support initiatives that bring communities, government and industry together to build mutually beneficial partnerships.

And that is why we are so proud to be here at this launch today, to support the Government of Tanzania, through SIDO, and VSO to deliver on this mandate, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, in three of the most resource-rich regions in Tanzania.

Australia is delighted to support Tanzanian efforts to help local small businesses and communities. Based on our own experience, if you give small local businesses the chance to secure sub-contracts with major resource companies or their suppliers, there will be a powerful flow-on for local economic development and growth, particularly through increased employment opportunities and income.

As a resource-rich country, Australia is pleased to help Tanzanians benefit from the extractives industry in Tanzania. The resource sector has the potential to play a positive, transformational role in development, and we hope that this exciting and innovative project contributes to that transformation.

I am particularly pleased that Australian volunteers will play a critical role in delivering this project, and will be recruited through one of our – and VSO's – most trusted partners, Australian Volunteers International.

- Australian volunteers are already doing a terrific job in Tanzania, where they are contributing to critical development outcomes.
- I have no doubt that the new volunteers will be just as committed to making a difference to the communities they will serve.

I want to take an opportunity to commend the private sector partners involved in this project – including Anglo Gold Ashanti, Shanta Gold and Australia's Beach Energy – for supporting such a worthwhile and community-focused goal. Without the private sector's involvement, this project would not have the same impact and reach, and I thank you all for being part of this.

Before I close, I would also like to note a very important part of this project – gender equity. Tanzanian women are central to the economic growth of the country and the Australian and Tanzanian Governments have made firm commitments to promote gender equality. Here today, we again commit to working with our partners to ensure both women and men benefit from the extractives industry. I am very pleased that the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce has such a prominent role in this project, and we look forward to hearing many good news stories on gender as this program progresses.

Thank you once again, and a very good morning to you all.