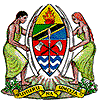
**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER, ELDERLY AND CHILDREN**

***CLOSING REMARKS MADE BY THE CHIEF PHARMACIST – MR DAUDI MSASI AT THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF ASCEND PROJECT***

**APC HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA,**

**26th NOVEMBER, 2020**

* **Mr. Adam Mitangu Fimbo - Director General – TMDA**
* **Representatives from Project Consortium Partners**
* **Representatives from St. Andrews University – UK**
* **TMDA Directors**
* **Distinguished Guests**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen**
* **Good evening**

I’m standing before you this evening to offer my closing remarks at this very important meeting. I thank the organizers for inviting me and I had to travel from Dodoma for this occasion taking into account the sigficance of the project and the institutions represented here.

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children which supervises the work and responsibilities of the consortium institutions represented here, has a major stake and role to play in research in this country including Zanzibar.

As the Ministry we are obliged to ensure that research is well coordinated and institutions within the Ministry cooperate to uphold the principles underpinned in the heath sector policies and strategies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The project you have just launched today is a major step towards strengthening ethical and regulatory systems that the Ministry is utterly supporting.

I plead to you to keep on collaborating as you have proven and play your part to make sure that research is ostensibly organized, conducted and coordinated to answer scientific questions we all need from investigators.

The vast experience that you all have will undoubtedly be helpful to your respective institutions, the Ministry and the general public at large.

The ASCEND project has blended a great team in the research circle and I believe the expectations would be exceeded.

Reading through the project objectives including presentations made today, I’m certain that you will meet the project deliverables and as a result clinical research ethics and regulatory capacities in our country will indeed move to another level.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The funding agency – EDCTP was acknowledged by the guest of honour in the morning during official opening. Let me also take the advantage of standing here to again thank EDCTP for the support they have been extending in recent times, not only for the impending project but also for many other projects that have received funding from them.

With your support we have been able to implement many projects which have significantly impacted on policy reforms and streamlining systems in many institutions.

We truly appreciate and guarantee you that we will ensure comprehensive and faultless implementation of the ASCEND project.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Having said that, I would therefore like to wind up by thanking you again for inviting me and declare that this kick off meeting for the ASCEND project has officially been closed.

**Thank you for your attention**

**END**