

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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The Permanent Secretary)

In reply please quote: WAUJ/MU/01

26<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

Re: CONFERENCE ENDORSEMENT LETTER FROM MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, TANZANIA


I am exceedingly delighted to welcome you to the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer – AORTIC 2009 – to be held in Dar es Salaam Tanzania on November 11 – 14, 2009.

The theme of the AORTIC 2009 Conference is *Cancer in Africa – the New Reality*, and will focus on all aspects of cancer care and management from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and palliation. So relevant to Tanzania as much as it is for the whole of Africa!

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Tanzania. While 75 daily deaths in Tanzania are due to cancer, there are nearly 100 new cancer cases occurring everyday in the country. At present only 10% of cancer cases reach the country's only cancer centre, the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) for treatment, 80% of whom report with late stage disease. At the same time the number of people developing and dying from cancer is predicted to continue to increase steadily both in Tanzania and worldwide. Since we know that cancer affects most of us at some point in our lives, and that many people are unaware how much can be done to prevent, cure and care for those with cancer, the AORTIC 2009 Conference is a welcome event to our country. This conference will provide many with opportunity to share best practices and new advances in cancer research.

The Government of Tanzania is committed to increasing its investment in cancer prevention and control in order to make Tanzania one among countries with low cancer burden by providing a coordinated, comprehensive and responsive cancer control program for Tanzania through human resource development, prevention, early detection, treatment, and palliative care in order to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality for all people.

On behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and on my own behalf, I am very pleased to endorse the objectives of the AORTIC 2009 Conference and to pledge my personal participation in the conference.

  
Prof. David Homeli Mwakyusa (MP)  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE