

Statement by The Guest of Honour, Hon. Charles Keenja, MP and Minister for Agriculture and Food Security at a Partnership commencement ceremony between Exim Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank and PROPACO of France

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to thank you for inviting me to join you in this very important occasion and for giving the honour of being your guest of honour. Thank you very much.

2. My Ministry enjoys a close relationship with the Exim Bank because of your involvement in promoting agriculture, pre-export crop financing, agro-processing together with your other financial and trade services in this country. You seem to be the only bank with the willingness and courage to invest in agriculture, the main stay of our economy. On behalf of the farmers of this country I would like to take this opportunity to commend and to thank you for your support.

3. **Today**, You Bank is entering an important stage in its history. The signing of a cooperation agreement between the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and PROPACO of France on the one hand and the Exim Bank on the other is an important event not only to the Bank but to Tanzania as a whole.

4. I would like to thank IFC and PROPACO for the confidence which you have shown in the Exim Bank and to this country. The resources, amounting to USD 3.5 million, which you will make available to the Bank will enable it to increase its lending to the growth of the national economy. I request you to continue assisting the Exim Bank and to identify other institutions which you can assist in a similar manner.

5. **Finally**, I would like to congratulate the Board of Directors and the Management of the Exim Bank for winning the approval of these esteemed institutions. I wish to advise you to run the Bank on strict banking principals so as to ensure that it continues to grow from strength to strength. You should pay particular attention to credit repayment and control of losses which could be occasioned through laxity.

6. I wish you continued success and I assure you of our continued cooperation.